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WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011

No. 196

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2011, at 11 a.m.

House of Representatives

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
O Lord our God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. You have kept us in life, sustained us, and allowed us to reach this moment.

Bless the Members of the people's House that you have gifted to serve our Nation. As the first session of the 112th Congress draws near a close, we ask Your special blessing upon those who have given so much time and talent throughout this year and, in these closing days, the staffers of each congressional office and the various committees. Grant them peace and renewal in the weeks to come.

Grant the Members of this Chamber continued wisdom and charity as the work of this session comes to a close. May they be truly grateful for the awesome privilege which is theirs, to serve the people of our Nation in this august body.

Help us all to be truly grateful for what we have and generous in what we do. May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 493, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 16, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 16, 2011 at 8:28 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 94.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 17, 2011.
Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 17, 2011 at 4:19 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.R. 789.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.R. 2422.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.R. 1264.

That the Senate passed S. 1874.

That the Senate passed S. 1710.

That the Senate passed S. 1959.

That the Senate concur in the amendment of The House of Representatives to the bill S. 278.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 17, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 17, 2011 at 11:23 a.m.:

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H9931

That the Senate failed passage H. Con. Res. 94.

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 3630.

That the Senate agreed to Conference Report accompanying the bill H.R. 2055.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, December 17, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,

The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 17, 2011 at 12:56 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3672.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, December 17, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,

The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 17, 2011 at 2:37 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 95.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches per side.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO CZECH REPUBLIC FORMER PRESIDENT VACLAV HAVEL

(Mr. MCCOTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, the late Czech champion of freedom, Vaclav Havel, once explained the battle between good and evil as "an eternal, never-ending struggle waged not just by good people against evil people. It takes place inside everyone. It is what makes a person a person, and life, life.

"So anyone who claims that I am a dreamer who expects to transform hell into heaven is wrong. I have few illusions. But I feel a responsibility to work towards the things I consider good and right. I don't know whether I'll be able to change certain things for the better, or not at all. Both outcomes are possible. There is only one thing I will not concede: that it might be meaningless to strive in a good cause."

Mr. Havel, for your meaningful life's work engaging the affairs of state and of the heart for right and good, thank you and God bless you as your mortal struggle ends and you finally rest in peace amidst the freedom of your beloved Republic.

HERE WE GO AGAIN

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Another phony crisis, courtesy of the extremist bah-humbug House Republicans.

House Republicans have never met a deal they couldn't find a reason to dislike. Now they've resorted to fighting their colleagues in the other body to avoid doing something positive for our country.

Right now, we could be cutting the payroll tax, we could be extending jobless benefits, and approving a Medicare fix for our doctors. The average American family in Cleveland, Lorain, Sandusky, and Toledo now faces a \$1,000 tax hike because of the Republican game of chicken.

American middle class families want the payroll tax cut or their taxes will go up on average about \$1,000. Millions of Americans need unemployment benefits, but House Republicans need to pick a fight. And it doesn't matter with whom. If they can't fight with Democrats, who are standing up for the middle class, they will fight with their colleagues in the other body.

Here's what I want for Christmas: I want the Republicans to care half as much about manufacturing jobs in America as they care about manufacturing crises. Now wouldn't that be a holiday present?

REPUBLICANS HAVE SERVED THE PUBLIC

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday House Republicans successfully passed a bill that protects every American taxpayer and promotes job creation by extending the payroll tax cut, reforming unemployment insurance, and providing Medicare payments to physicians for a year. Over the weekend, liberals in the Senate amended this legislation to provide for only a 2-month fix. In an attempt to tie House Republicans' hands and force the 2-month extension, Senate liberals led adjournment for recess.

The American people deserve much better than this childish behavior when our unemployment rate has consistently remained above 8 percent for 34 months and over 25 million Americans are searching for work.

Our sympathy to the people of the Czech Republic upon the death of former President Vaclav Havel, who was a brave patriot helping liberate Central and Eastern Europe from communism, leading to the establishment of the neighboring Slovak Republic.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

GOP AS GRINCH

(Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. It's Grinch time in Washington, Mr. Speaker. One is incredulous that the House Republicans would oppose a tax cut for 160 million Americans, but that's just what they're going to do today.

Is this bill perfect? No. There are aspects upon which both sides disagree. But it is the area of agreement that should be the most important: Congress stops playing hostage politics and halts the tax hike on 160 million fellow citizens.

Saturday's Senate vote was 89-10—not just liberals, I say to my friend from South Carolina—with all members of the Senate leadership, Republican and Democrat, voting in favor. If House Republicans vote against this compromise, they will ring in the new year with a tax hike of their own making.

If House Republicans were serious about wanting certainty, as they claim, they would vote for this bill today and guarantee that 160 million Americans won't pay higher taxes on January 1.

Mr. Speaker, rejecting this bill and holding up the payroll tax cut and unemployment benefits will be a true example of how the GOP Grinch stole Christmas for 160 million Americans.

SENATE PLAN NOT GOOD FOR PHYSICIANS, PATIENTS, OR AMERICA

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of doctors around the country.

As a physician, and now a legislator, I am personally devastated at the way our government continues to treat those who care for America's patients, particularly those who care for America's seniors.

Physicians have staff to pay, electricity bills, building leases, and numerous other costs associated with running a practice. The 2-month patch that the Senate sent back to us as part of the payroll tax package does not provide doctors and their practices with the stability that they need to do their job—caring for America's seniors.

At a time when American businesses need certainty, Congress gives them a brief, unpredictable, and unreliable timeline. Two months of tax payment relief is just another short-term fix, and it's simply not good enough. Physicians deserve better. Patients deserve better. The American people deserve better.

I will vote "no" on the Senate bill and urge my colleagues to do the same. Then let's come back with a policy that will, for heaven's sakes, at least take us through the year ahead.

SENATE PLAN IS IRRESPONSIBLE

(Mr. GIBBS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, the President has said it would be inexcusable not to extend the payroll tax cut for a year. However, the Senate's plan merely extends the plan for just 60 days, instead of a full year extension, creating uncertainty for our job creators at a time when millions of Americans are out of work. It also creates more uncertainty about implementing the plans, as we just learned today from the National Payroll Reporting Consortium.

American families deserve better than tax policy in 2-month increments. Last week, the House passed bipartisan legislation that extends the payroll tax cut for a full year, which would save American households an average of \$1,000 a year. It also extends unemployment benefits and ensures senior citizens have access to their doctor by preventing a cut in Medicare reimbursement rates.

The worst part of the Senate plan is it puts new permanent fees on home mortgages to pay for 60 days of spending. This is an irresponsible and outrageous plan.

Our bill is offset by reasonable spending cuts, not new taxes on hardworking middle class home borrowers. A full-

year plan with no new taxes is better than a 2-month spending spree which is nothing more than a political side-show.

I guess the Senators were anxious to leave town and not finish their work. So I think we ought to call the Senate plan "I'll be home for Christmas."

PULSE OF TEXAS: HUMBLE RESIDENT

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, each week my neighbors take the time to make their opinions known through emails, phone calls, and letters. Today's Pulse of Texas is from a Federal employee in Humble, Texas, who recently wrote me with these wise observations:

"I am an 11-year Federal Government employee who works hard, and yet I'm on a 2-3 year pay freeze while unemployment benefits are extended over and over again. I live in a house that I purchased because I could afford it, yet my tax dollars go to bail out bad lenders and borrowers. My children go to colleges that they can afford. They all held jobs during college, and the oldest graduated with zero in student loan debt, yet now there is a plan to bail out those who went to schools above their means. Enough is enough.

"Please help break the cycle of entitlement and lack of personal responsibility that the government is fostering in this country."

Mr. Speaker, America should be the land of freedom and opportunity, not more free stuff and entitlement.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1610

WE NEED A 1-YEAR EXTENSION

(Mr. HECK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, Nevadans tell me time and time again that they want some certainty in their lives. They want their elected leaders to move beyond patchwork agreements every single month.

We passed a 1-year package, fully paid for, that extends unemployment benefits while providing a pathway back to work, keeps an extra \$1,000 in the pockets of Nevada's struggling families, while protecting Social Security, and maintains access to health care for seniors and veterans by keeping doctors in Medicare.

Throughout the entire negotiation process, the American people were assured that they would receive an entire year of certainty. Then the Senate pulled the rug out from underneath them. Passing a 2-month extension now will put us right back here in February, when we should be using that time to debate job-creating ideas.

The House will stay here and work on this critical issue until it is resolved.

The House agrees with the President and the American people: we need a 1-year extension. Anything else will be judged as a failure to do our job.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled joint resolution was signed by the Speaker on Friday, December 16, 2011:

H.J. Res. 94, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes,

and Saturday, December 17, 2011:

H.J. Res. 95, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

IMPACT OF INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION FAILURES

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2056) to instruct the Inspector General of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study the impact of insured depository institution failures, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

On page 2, line 10, insert "and" after the semicolon.

On page 2, line 14, strike the semicolon and all that follows through line 19 and insert a period.

On page 4, strike line 14 and all that follows through page 5, line 5, and insert the following:

(2) *LOSSES.*—*The significance of losses, including—*

(A) *the number of insured depository institutions that have been placed into receivership or conservatorship due to significant losses arising from loans for which all payments of principal, interest, and fees were current, according to the contractual terms of the loans;*

(B) *the impact of significant losses arising from loans for which all payments of principal, interest, and fees were current, according to the contractual terms of the loans, on the ability of insured depository institutions to raise additional capital;*

(C) *the effect of changes in the application of fair value accounting rules and other accounting standards, including the allowance for loan and lease loss methodology, on insured depository institutions, specifically the degree to which fair value accounting rules and other accounting standards have led to regulatory action against banks, including consent orders and closure of the institution; and*

(D) whether field examiners are using appropriate appraisal procedures with respect to losses arising from loans for which all payments of principal, interest, and fees were current, according to the contractual terms of the loans, and whether the application of appraisals leads to immediate write downs on the value of the underlying asset.

On page 9, strike lines 15 through 19, and insert the following:

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY.

The Inspector General of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Comptroller General of the United States shall appear before the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, not later than 150 days after the date of publication of the study required under this Act to discuss the outcomes and impact of Federal regulations on bank examinations and failures.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The bill before the House today is one that will provide much needed transparency to the FDIC, the Federal Reserve, and the OCC bank examination and resolution procedures.

First, I'd like to thank Chairman BACHUS and Subcommittee Chairwoman CAPITO, Ranking Member FRANK, and Subcommittee Ranking Member MALONEY for their support of H.R. 2056.

I'd also like to thank Senator CHAMBLISS and his staff for working to pass this bill on the Senate side. We are pleased to have an agreement with the other Chamber, which is highly unusual, and look forward to the outcome of this study.

As I have said many times before, there is no greater threat to our communities than bank failures, especially in my State of Georgia. Since the House last debated this bill in July, more banks in Georgia have been closed by the regulators. Now 73 banks are no longer serving their communities, and 22 banks alone have failed in 2011. Sadly, there are some communities in my district that are no longer served by a community bank.

I have often referenced the so-called "ten over ten." These are the 10 States that have had more than 10 bank failures since 2008. These 10 unlucky States are Georgia, Florida, Illinois, California, Minnesota, Washington, Michigan, Nevada, Missouri and Arizona. In fact, six of the 10 States have had more than 10 percent of their banks fail in the last 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, the deeper I dig into the actions of the FDIC, the Fed and the OCC, the more concerned I am that our community banks are being regulated like public utilities rather than the job creators they are. H.R. 2056 is designed to cut through all the information to analyze the underlying fundamentals that continue to cause bank failures across this country.

The bill directs the FDIC Inspector General, in consultation with Treasury and the Federal Reserve IGs, to study the bank regulators' policies and practices with regard to loss share agreements, the fair application of regulatory capital standards, appraisals, the FDIC procedures for loan modifications, and the FDIC's handling of consent orders in cease and desist orders.

Further, the GAO also has a study in the bill to pursue those questions that the FDIC IG is unable to fully explore, such as the causes of the high number of bank failures. The impact of fair market value accounting has been a tremendous impact on our banks. Analysis of this impact of the failures on the community banks is especially needed. The overall effectiveness of loss share agreements for resolving banks is another thing that should be looked at very carefully.

The changes made by the Senate now ensure that the House Financial Services Committee and the Senate Banking Committee will have a hearing on this important study once it is issued.

I know this bill can never bring back the banks that have been lost in this crisis, but this bill and the study will provide Congress and the communities in my district and in other districts the information they need to ensure these failures never happen again.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This was a matter brought to me by the gentleman from Georgia who just spoke, and his Georgia colleague, the gentleman, Mr. SCOTT, who's a member of the Financial Services Committee, because of their understandable concern that the impact bank failures could have in the State they represent. I am very supportive.

I do want to make clear that nothing in the passage of this should be taken as a criticism of the FDIC. I have been very impressed with the leadership that was given to the FDIC by the recently retired chair, Sheila Bair, an appointee of President Bush, who was not only, I think, a first-rate chair at the FDIC, but gave us a great deal of her useful advice as we dealt with financial reform.

Bank failures are an unfortunate fact of life. We don't want them to be done unnecessarily, but neither can they be avoided. And, obviously, in the overwhelming majority of cases, the problem is in the business community. The

right to fail, as we must remind ourselves, is part of the right to do business.

Having said that, I agree that what the FDIC does should be very transparent. And there is one aspect of what the FDIC does, not directly affected in this bill, but it's one that I think you have bipartisan agreement on in the committee, namely, and I will mention this because of its impact on our economy.

Understandably, bank examiners felt very sensitive to criticism that during the first part of this century they did not say no to enough loans. Loans were made in the mortgage field that shouldn't have been made, but you cannot retroactively go back and undo that by now being too tough and denying loans that should be made. And we have had a frustration on the part of members of our committee because we hear reports from people in the field in the community banks that bank examiners are being too tough.

No one wants to encourage imprudent lending, and the bank regulators tell us they agree with that; but I want to take every opportunity I can to remind the bank examiners that if they run into a situation in which no bank loan ever defaults, then they have been too tough because perfection is unattainable; and what we want to do is minimize the number of failures, but not move them out all together with a regime that will keep good loans from being made.

Having said that, to go back to this, it is appropriate that we get a full study of what happens when a bank fails; and we would ask the FDIC, when they are dealing with a failed bank, to take into account the needs of that particular community so that the disposition is one that has some sensitivity, and that is what I think is here.

I would just say, with regard to community banks, there was a continued recognition they're important. And I would just note in the financial reform bill signed last year, there were several provisions that were in there at the specific request of the community banks to help them. For example, one of the disadvantages community banks have felt is that people with large amounts to deposit would go to larger institutions because the limitation on deposit insurance would make them a little worried about going to a community bank.

□ 1620

We increase that number from \$100,000 to \$250,000, which is a significant advantage for community banks over the prior situation.

We also, for the first time in our history, change the way in which assessments are levied on banks for deposit insurance by introducing a risk factor. Before the bill was signed, every deposit was levied the same amount of insurance cost. Now there is a risk factor, which means that, dollar for dollar, the larger institutions which engage in riskier activities will be paying more than the smaller institutions.

We also extended, for a period—I would have liked to make it permanent; we didn't have the votes to do that—the transactional accounts.

So, yes, we are aware of the importance of community banks. And I would just repeat what I said at the first, because I have found, surprisingly, that not everybody listens to everything I say the first time I say it. This is not meant as a criticism of the FDIC. It is a recognition of the importance of this process being open and that people understand it.

So I say to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND), the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT), they were serving their constituents well by bringing this forward, and I hope the bill passes.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the chairwoman of the Financial Institutions Subcommittee of Financial Services, the gentlelady from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) for his leadership on this topic. He has been very dedicated to finding a solution here. He's worked with both sides of the aisle to find a way to get to the transparency and accountability that we need to have in terms of the examination process with our community banks, and I know he has been a tireless advocate for the communities in his district.

We actually went to Mr. WESTMORELAND's district, to Newnan, Georgia, and had a legislative hearing, and we learned about the bank closures and the financial examination procedures. Regulators were all there. Financial institutions were there. But I think the one thing that struck me more than anything in the course of the conversation was, when a bank fails—and a lot of times a community bank is the only community bank, local bank, local ownership, know the people down the street. When that bank fails, it really guts the community in a way that's hard to describe.

The larger banks are there; branches are there. But, still, losing that community anchor in a community bank can be a devastating thing, not just for individuals and families but also for the shop owner, the car dealer, the individual farmer, the folks that rely on the relationship banking that you get so spectacularly through a community bank. You lose that and, unfortunately, never to come back again in a lot of cases. I think that he's very concerned about that, and the people of Newnan, Georgia, in that district, are very concerned.

This study I think will help us to see what's really going on here, pull the curtain back, look at the practices and the examination procedures. I know that Senator LEVIN made some technical changes in this, and I would like to thank Mr. WESTMORELAND for working with the Senator.

Now, maybe that should be a life lesson for us here in terms of what's going on today, but I think we've reached a good consensus and a good agreement. We will hear the results of this study in our subcommittee and in our full committee to find out if we need to work with the regulators to change the regulations, make it so that what the banking institutions are hearing on the ground from their regulators is actually what is moving forward in their written reports that are sent to Washington, et cetera, et cetera.

One of the things that we are challenged with here in Congress certainly is creating jobs and creating a climate where banks are going to lend and creating a regulatory climate where banks are going to lend and want to lend to small businesses. This issue that Mr. WESTMORELAND has highlighted I think will help us with that and, hopefully, will undo some of the needless shackles that some of our examiners are placing on our smaller institutions or on our community banks to be able to get back lending, and then our small businesses and job creators can then get back to the business of creating jobs so we can grow our economy.

I would like to again thank everybody for their efforts, and I look forward to the passage of this bill.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage all of the Members to vote for this. As the chairlady mentioned, we had a field hearing in my district with my colleague Mr. SCOTT from Georgia, also. I think it was a very good field hearing. We had testimony from bankers and from borrowers about the different regulations that had interfered with their ability to actually do business and the difference in the capital requirements that the FDIC is putting on some of these banks.

We understand that the FDIC has to enforce the rules, but we do think there are some cases, as the ranking member mentioned, that there has been some overbearing on some loans that have been performing and are quality loans. So we think that this study will at least open some people's eyes to this and give us a better idea on maybe some of the things that we need to do to make sure that our community banks stay open.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, as an elected Representative from one of the states hardest hit by the financial crisis, I strongly support H.R. 2056, introduced by my colleague, Representative LYNN WESTMORELAND, which takes a closer look at how our Nation's small community banks are failing at the hands of overzealous regulators.

H.R. 2056 directs the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Government Accountability Office to study whether certain practices and procedures employed by federal regulators while examining financial institutions has played a role in a record number of com-

munity banks failing in recent years. Among these are important issues relating to loss-sharing agreements and examiners' policies relating to appraisals.

Among other things, the FDIC must determine whether financial institutions are being placed into receivership or conservatorship due to significant losses arising from loans for which all payments were made on time and the contractual terms of the loans have been met. With Congressman WESTMORELAND, I believe that a performing loan is exactly that—one that is performing according to the terms of the contract. A regulator should not be able to step in and interject an opinion on why the loan may not perform at some point in the future, and thus penalize a community bank.

The introduction and passage of this bill indicates that there is a real world problem here, one that deserves swift diagnosis and treatment. I have heard from bankers time and again that regulators have shifted away from considering objective evaluations of loan performance, such as borrower payment history, and looked instead to subjective opinions on whether a loan may experience difficulties in the future. No business can thrive in that kind of volatile environment. Community banks are struggling in Florida. To make matters worse, surviving banks are operating in fear of overzealous regulators and as a result, small businesses are finding it almost impossible to obtain the capital they need to expand and hire more workers. Community banks are the lifeblood of our local communities and are best positioned to help our economy recover if they are able to make loans, using reasonable underwriting standards, without being penalized by their examiners.

It has been shown that states with the highest number of bank failures also have the highest unemployment and foreclosure rates in the country. That being said, it will be difficult to realize a full national economic recovery without addressing the issue of why so many small banks are closing their doors and why so many of them are unable to make loans in their community. As Congress continues to work to see that our economy recovers, it is essential that we press regulators for answers to the issues raised in Representative WESTMORELAND's study.

No one wants to see a repeat of what transpired in 2008 and the effects that still linger on today. However, we must remember that small banks did not cause the financial crisis. Their business practices are by nature thorough and cautious. I urge my colleagues to take a serious look at the issues raised by Representative WESTMORELAND and join me in pressing financial regulators for answers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 2056.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RISK-BASED SECURITY SCREENING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ACT

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1801) to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for expedited security screenings for members of the Armed Forces.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Risk-Based Security Screening for Members of the Armed Forces Act".

SEC. 2. SECURITY SCREENING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 44903 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(m) *SECURITY SCREENING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.*—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration), in consultation with the Department of Defense, shall develop and implement a plan to provide expedited security screening services for a member of the armed forces, and, to the extent possible, any accompanying family member, if the member of the armed forces, while in uniform, presents documentation indicating official orders for air transportation departing from a primary airport (as defined in section 47102).

“(2) *PROTOCOLS.*—In developing the plan, the Assistant Secretary shall consider—

“(A) leveraging existing security screening models used to reduce passenger wait times;

“(B) establishing standard guidelines for the screening of military uniform items, including combat boots; and

“(C) incorporating any new screening protocols into an existing trusted passenger program, as established pursuant to section 109(a)(3) of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (49 U.S.C. 114 note), or into the development of any new credential or system that incorporates biometric technology and other applicable technologies to verify the identity of individuals traveling in air transportation.

“(3) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in this subsection shall affect the authority of the Assistant Secretary to require additional screening of a member of the armed forces if intelligence or law enforcement information indicates that additional screening is necessary.

“(4) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.*—The Assistant Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the implementation of the plan.”.

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall implement the plan required by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today I rise in support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1801.

H.R. 1801 represents a bipartisan, bicameral effort in honor of the members of our Armed Forces by transitioning to an expedited, intelligence-driven screening process for all U.S. soldiers at our Nation's airports.

Shortly after the House passed H.R. 1801 by a vote of 404–0, the Senate, with the support and leadership of Ranking Member KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON and Chairman JAY ROCKEFELLER, amended and passed H.R. 1801 by voice vote.

I have had time to review the Senate amendment, and, quite frankly, I think it improves the underlying bill. It requires coordination between TSA and the Department of Defense in establishing the expedited screening process and clarifies that the TSA Administrator retains the authority to require additional screening for a member of the Armed Forces should intelligence or law enforcement information raise any concerns.

In addition, the Senate amendment allows TSA to include accompanying military family members in the expedited screening process “to the extent possible.”

Overall, the Senate amendment to H.R. 1801 improves the bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

In closing, I'd like to thank Transportation Security Committee Chairman MIKE ROGERS and Ranking Member SHEILA JACKSON LEE and Homeland Security Committee Chairman PETER KING and Ranking Member BENNIE THOMPSON for moving this legislation.

Additionally, I would like to recognize and thank Senators KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON and JAY ROCKEFELLER for their leadership in having this measure pass in the Senate.

I would also like to take some time to recognize some of the great staff on the House and Senate Homeland Security Committees, especially Mandy Bowers, Jennifer Arangio, Amanda Parikh, Steven Giaier, Nicole Smith, Jake Vreeburg, and Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District Legislative Director Paul Blocher and his staff for all they have done in this process.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1801, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the Committee of Homeland Security and as an ardent supporter of the men and women of the armed services, I am pleased to return

today as we're on the floor to consider the Senate amendment to H.R. 1801, the Risk-Based Security Screening for Members of the Armed Forces Act.

□ 1630

This legislation requires the Transportation Security Administration to develop a plan for providing expedited screening to our military personnel at airport security checkpoints.

As the gentleman from Minnesota just alluded to, the Senate amendment took a good bill and made it even better by expressly including new safeguards. Last Congress, on a bipartisan basis, an earlier version of this legislation was accepted as an amendment during the consideration of the Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act, which passed this House by 397–25, which was not acted upon by the Senate.

H.R. 1801 properly recognizes the preciousness of time—nothing more important than time—to the patriotic men and women serving in our armed services, but it does not compromise aviation security. Our troops help keep our country safe. While first ensuring safety, the least we can do is devise methods to help speed up the screening process for our troops who are in uniform and who are traveling on airplanes while on official duty.

Since 2001, there have been more than 2 million troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. As our military presence in Iraq winds down, more servicemembers will, thankfully, be coming home. We owe it to them and to all of our servicemembers to do all we can to smooth their travels so that they can get home and into the arms of their loving families. This legislation establishes adequate parameters that will ensure that our troops and their families, including the 236,963 military personnel in my home State of California, will be given the opportunity to board an aircraft in a security-approved expedited manner. If approved today, this legislation will go directly to the President for his signature.

With the enactment of H.R. 1801, we have the opportunity to show the country, despite all the acrimony that has been punctuated in this 112th Congress, we can accomplish good things for the American people when we focus on areas of common ground and when compromise is embraced. So I urge my colleagues to support this legislation with the Senate amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I am compelled to build upon this current debate of H.R. 1801 and use this opportunity to urge the Republican leadership to bring to the floor additional bipartisan, common-sense homeland security legislation. This is the only bill reported by the Committee on Homeland Security to be considered before the full House. There are a number of other Homeland Security bills on the Union Calendar that warrant consideration by the full House as well.

Among them is H.R. 1447, introduced by Ranking Member BENNIE THOMPSON.

This legislation seeks to enhance TSA's coordination with private-sector stakeholders on aviation policy. Also on the Union Calendar is H.R. 1165, authored by Representative JACKSON LEE, which would strengthen the TSA Ombudsman office.

With bipartisan support, both of these bills were ordered reported by the Committee on Homeland Security. Despite having received bipartisan support from the committee, these bills have lingered on the Union Calendar for 40-plus days. I urge the Republican leadership to schedule these bills for consideration, as I am confident they will return to this House with overwhelming bipartisan support.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAVAACK. I have no further requests for time, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time to close.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. I thank the gentlelady from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I think expedited screening for military servicemembers is very important. I am glad that we are taking this bill up on a bipartisan basis, but I think there are some other things happening right now that should also be given our complete attention with regard to what we will be talking about.

With the highest unemployment rate in the Nation, far too many Nevadans are worrying about how they're going to make ends meet. Nevada's middle class families who still have jobs cannot afford a massive tax increase in January, but that's exactly the direction we appear to be heading thanks to the Tea Party extremists in the House of Representatives. They're holding middle-income families hostage; they're holding unemployed people hostage; and they're holding senior citizens hostage.

One would ask, Why? It's to protect their special interest buddies—Wall Street millionaires, Big Oil executives, and corporations that ship American jobs overseas.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. It would be a disaster if the House Republicans refused to stand up to Wall Street today and extend the middle class tax cuts. In Nevada, 1.2 million people would see their taxes rise as much as \$1,247 in January if this House of Representatives, led by the Republicans, doesn't do the right thing. With families struggling just to pay rent, put food on their tables, and put gas in their cars, that's not acceptable.

It's time for the Tea Party extremists in the Republican Party to let go and get their priorities straight. Middle class families in Nevada and across the country come first, not Wall Street millionaires. The time for political games is over. The clock is ticking. We have to take care of those who are unemployed through no fault of their own. We have to take care of middle-

income families who are struggling just to get by and who need that extra \$1,000 this year. Rather than have it taken out of their taxes, we also need to ensure that seniors get the medical care they need.

The time is over for game-playing. On behalf of Nevada's struggling families, I demand that this House not allow a massive middle class tax increase. Let us do our business before we go home and not shame ourselves and the American people by leaving them in the lurch during the holiday season.

I applaud Congresswoman RICHARDSON for putting this legislation on, and I hope that we truly address what's important to millions and millions of Americans across the country by doing the right thing later this evening and by making sure that we pass this middle-income tax cut.

Ms. RICHARDSON. I yield myself the balance of my time.

As you've heard, Mr. Speaker, the measure before us represents discrete, commonsense homeland security legislation. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of this motion to suspend the rules and to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1801 so that this measure can be presented to the President for his signature.

I would like to congratulate the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK) and the staffs on both sides of the aisle for their work not only in this Congress but for their work in the 111th Congress, which was when this was brought forward in the prior TSA act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAVAACK. In closing, I would like to thank the gentlelady from California for her refocusing of the debate on who deserves this the most—our troops.

With that, I would urge all of my colleagues to support this. This is a very big amendment for our troops; so let's give them a Christmas present that really means something to them. I look forward to bringing home the Minnesota Red Bulls safe and sound.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I am pleased that we are on the floor today to consider the Senate amendment to H.R. 1801.

Approval of this measure today will, for the first time this Congress, result in transportation security legislation reaching the President's desk.

In this budgetary climate, we must ensure that the Transportation Security Administration is maximizing its resources and adequately integrating efficient screening process across its checkpoint security programs.

This legislation strives to do that by ensuring that an expedited screening program is established for members of the Armed Forces, which includes over 20,000 men and women in the Houston metro area.

These men and women sacrifice their time and family life to defend our liberty.

Affording them the opportunity to be respectfully screened in an expedited manner will ensure that we continue to honor their service and what their commitment means to the American public.

H.R. 1801 represents common-sense legislation with bipartisan support.

The Senate amendment ensures that there is a strong collaboration between the Department of Defense and the Transportation Security Administration.

Furthermore, H.R. 1801 establishes parameters for expedited screening process for members of the Armed Services without compromising security.

I am happy that I was able to work with Mr. ROGERS and other members of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Full Committee on Homeland Security on this bill.

However, I hope that we do not stop here. This legislation represents only a small slice of the legislative action we must act on to adequately address transportation security.

Transportation security threats are evolving and more work must be done.

I look forward to continuing our work on the Committee on Homeland Security and producing additional bipartisan measures that strive to enhance our Nation's transportation security efforts.

With that Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1801.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

EXTENSION OF REDACTION AUTHORITY CONCERNING SENSITIVE SECURITY INFORMATION

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1059) to protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

On page 2, line 6 through 8 strike and insert:

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "Marshalls" and inserting "Marshals";

(2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting "and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and

Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform" after "Senate"; and

(3) in subparagraph (E), by striking "2011" both places it appears and inserting "2017".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the motion to concur currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

□ 1640

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I support H.R. 1059 and thank Mr. CONYERS for sponsoring it. I also thank Mr. COHEN of Tennessee and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia for serving as cosponsors.

H.R. 1059 promotes an important goal, providing security for Federal judges. Under the Ethics in Government Act, judges and other high-level judicial branch officials must file annual financial disclosure reports. This requirement increases public confidence in government officials and better enables the public to judge the performance of those officials. However, Congress enacted legislation that allows the Judicial Conference to redact statutorily required information in a financial disclosure report where the release of the information could endanger the filer or their family.

Those who seek to harm or intimidate Federal judges might use a disclosure form to identify where someone's spouse or child works or goes to school on a regular basis. Individuals targeting judges for harassment have also been known to file false claims on property owned by judges and their families. Harassers could use judicial financial disclosure reports to more easily identify such property.

The Judicial Conference delegated to its Committee on Financial Disclosure the responsibility to implement the financial disclosure requirements for judges and judicial employees under the Ethics in Government Act. The committee monitors the release of financial disclosure reports to ensure compliance with the statute.

In consultation with U.S. Marshals Service, the committee also reviews and approves or disapproves any request for redaction or statutorily mandated information where the filer believes the release of the information could endanger the filer and their family. Under the Judicial Conference's

regulations, no redaction will be granted without a clear nexus between a security risk and the information for which redaction is sought.

The law has worked well through the years and has been reauthorized twice since 2001; but it expires at the end of this calendar year if we fail to act, an outcome that is unacceptable.

Last year the Marshals Service investigated and analyzed almost 1,400 threats and inappropriate communications to judicial officials, nearly three times as many threats as recorded in 2003. And there were more than 3,900 incidents and arrests at U.S. court facilities in 2010.

Financial disclosures help maintain an open and transparent government, but government transparency should not come at the cost of personal security for government officials. Judges and other judicial employees perform important work that is integral to our democratic system of government. In order to preserve the integrity of our democracy, we must protect the integrity of our courts; and that means ensuring the security of judges and other judicial employees from intimidation and threats.

The Senate made two minor amendments to the bill, which we accept. The first amendment involves an annual report that the administrative Office of the U.S. Courts submits to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. The report summarizes the redactions made in the preceding year and explains why they were made. The first amendment mandates that the report also be sent to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, as well as the Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee. The second amendment sunsets the redaction authority after 6 years, in 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1059, as amended by the Senate, and urge my colleagues to extend the redaction authority.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to commend the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the gentleman from Texas, LAMAR SMITH, for his cooperation in bringing this bill out of committee and through the Congress.

On September 12 of this year, my bill passed the House unanimously. The requirement that judges and judicial branch employees disclose their personal finances promotes openness in the Federal Government. It reduces the risk of corruption, prevents the appearance of impropriety, and also sheds some transparency on what we do in the third branch of government.

Unfortunately, sometimes these required disclosures can include specific information about the filer's residence, a spouse's workplace, a child's workplace, or a vacation home. This information has the potential to place individual judges, employees, and their families at risk. So what we're doing

here is allowing a redaction by the Judicial Conference. The bill's redaction authority is critical to ensuring that this information does not get into the wrong hands and the whole idea is to make sure that some of the Federal judges whose lives have been lost and others whose family members have lost their lives by disgruntled litigants will not be made available to them.

The Judicial Conference is very careful in granting redaction authority. And although I would have preferred a permanent redaction authority, I'm perfectly willing to support a 6-year authority with extension possibilities. I look forward to the President signing this bill into law immediately.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1059.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

BELARUS DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 515) to reauthorize the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

On page 6, line 19, strike "and" and insert "expanded its visa ban list, imposed additional financial sanctions on certain state-owned enterprises, and initiated preparations to freeze the assets of several individuals in Belarus. The".

On page 10, line 9, strike "continue to".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days to submit for the RECORD statements and extraneous materials on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 515, the Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act. Before I begin my prepared remarks, however, I would like to take a moment to honor the life of former President Vaclav Havel, an inspirational leader and lifelong advocate for the cause of freedom.

Throughout his lifetime, Havel was part of an incredible transformation of Czechoslovakia, from an oppressive, communist Soviet satellite to the free, democratic, independent nation that is the Czech Republic. Many people at that time had given up hope that such a transformation was possible. It was beyond their imagination. But Vaclav Havel never lost faith and believed that people yearning for liberty could come together and affect incredible change.

Even following the liberation of his own country, Mr. Havel continued to champion the cause of the oppressed around the world, adding his voice to those calling for freedom in countries throughout Europe, the Balkans, and even my native homeland of Cuba.

□ 1650

As he eloquently said after the Velvet Revolution that brought liberty to his people: "None of us know all of the potentialities that slumber in the spirit of the population, or all the ways in which that population can surprise us when there is the right interplay of events."

It is therefore fitting that we come here today to consider this measure to support the democratic movement in a country relatively near Mr. Havel's homeland, a country called the "last dictatorship in Europe."

The brutal Lukashenko regime in Belarus has time and again proven itself to be unrepentant in the oppression of its own people. Despite claims of reform by those in leadership positions, there have been no real changes in Belarus. It seems that's the same script that all communist or communist-style dictators are using these days. It's the same facade the Cuban dictatorship seeks to perpetuate.

Hundreds of political prisoners remain in jail in Belarus, including two former Presidential candidates and a well-respected human rights defender, and credible reports indicate these prisoners are frequently subjected to degrading and inhumane treatment. Even those who have been previously released in attempted overtures to the West frequently are rearrested or face some other type of intimidation and retribution.

Mr. Speaker, last year, the world watched as over 700 pro-democracy pro-

testers were arrested en masse. Their crime? Simply clapping their hands—their hands. This was their peaceful expression of dissent with the regime and fraudulent elections which kept it in power. For clapping their hands.

Today marks the 1-year anniversary of those protests, and how does Belarus' dictator choose to mark this occasion? He has had police summon a key democratic opposition leader and has detained several independent journalists. This clearly shows that the regime is not interested in reform, only in retaining power—power through the muzzling of the opposition, power through the silencing of independent journalists, and power through the repression of its own people.

But as Mr. Havel stated, there is great potential in people who are calling for their own liberty. The people of Belarus are actively calling for their liberty, and this measure before us today provides them with the assistance and the resources they need to continue their valiant struggles.

I urge my colleagues to join us in showing their support for the people of Belarus by passing this important bill today.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this legislation. One year ago today, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko staged a fraudulent election.

After tens of thousands of ordinary Belarusians gathered to protest the conduct and results of that election, he arrested hundreds of them, including opposition candidates who dared to run against him. Last May, most were convicted and handed heavy sentences of up to 6 years in prison.

Since then, the Lukashenko regime has continued to harass members of opposition political parties, human rights activists and civil society, and to suppress Belarusians' access to free press and information.

This summer, when citizens of Belarus gathered over several weeks to protest peacefully against Lukashenko and his regime and the deteriorating economic situation there, he had them arrested for simply clapping their hands.

Just last month, the government tightened restrictions on the ability of civil society groups to receive foreign grants and placed even greater restrictions on peaceful protests.

The Obama administration, to its credit, has led the strong international reaction to the fraudulent elections, postelection crackdown and further deterioration of the human rights situation in Belarus. On February 2, the United States significantly expanded the list of Belarusian officials subject to travel restrictions and to having their assets blocked, and restored full U.S. sanctions against Belarus' largest state-owned oil and gas concern and all of its subsidiaries.

On July 2, Secretary of State Clinton met with activists from Belarus during her visit to Lithuania for a meeting of the Community of Democracies. She repeated her demand that Belarus release political prisoners and embark on the path of democratic reform. Just last night, Secretary Clinton and EU High Representative Catherine Ashton released a joint statement highlighting American and European concerns about continued human rights abuses in Belarus on the 1-year anniversary of the December 19, 2010, political crackdown.

In coordination with the European Union, the Obama administration has significantly expanded democracy assistance to the private sector in Belarus this year. These new resources will support the kind of assistance called for in the Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act of 2011 which we consider here today. By passing this legislation, Mr. Speaker, we are doing our part to encourage the free exchange of ideas in Belarus and helping to ensure a brighter future for the people of that tortured nation, people who, like people everywhere, have the right to free expression and self-government.

I support this bill and encourage my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, a strong advocate for freedom everywhere and the author of the bill before us.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the distinguished chairwoman for yielding and join her first in mourning the passing of Vaclav Havel, the great President and human rights crusader, one of the founders of Charter 77, a magnificent human rights manifesto, that took the Helsinki final act and turned it into a very durable and tangible program of action for the people of Czechoslovakia. Charter 77 has been replicated all over the world, including in Belarus—it's called Charter 97 there—as well as in places like Vietnam, where it's Bloc 8406.

I would note parenthetically that, back in the 1980s, I and some members of the Helsinki Commission, including STENY HOYER, sought to meet with members of Charter 77. All but one, Father Vaclav Maly—now Bishop Maly—got through to our meeting. The rest were detained by the secret police, including Vaclav Havel.

It's interesting and very important to point out that Vaclav Havel, before he passed away, tragically, sent a strong letter to the people of Belarus encouraging them to hold firm and expressing his overwhelming solidarity with the people of Belarus as they seek their universally recognized human rights. Again, this man never ceased in his promotion of human rights anywhere—from Burma to Belarus—including to his dying day, sending this

very important letter to the Belarusian people.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise in strong support and urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 515 again. We passed it last July, but it came back from the Senate with a couple of additions which are very much appreciated.

I especially want to thank Chairman JOHN KERRY and Senator LUGAR for their cooperation in helping to bring this legislation back to the House; and I want to thank the distinguished gentlelady for her leadership, and HOWARD BERMAN, as well as the Speaker and ERIC CANTOR, for bringing this legislation to the floor.

This is a very timely piece of legislation. As was noted, it is exactly 1 year ago today since the bloody December 19, 2010, election-night crackdown in Belarus which swept up more than 700 opposition supporters, many of whom I know personally, who dared to challenge the rule of Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko.

On this day of remembrance, we are here in the House to pass legislation that we know President Obama will sign—he supports it—that demonstrates our country's support for the human rights of the Belarusian people for democracy and the rule of law in Belarus through sanctions targeted against the dictator Lukashenko and his senior officials.

□ 1700

This legislation tracks legislation that I authored in 2004 and '06, which is current policy, called the Belarus Democracy Act, and it builds on that framework of trying to target those who are actually inflicting the abuse. It's timely and necessary. As I said, those jailed—and remember, there are many who have been jailed and more that are being jailed as we meet—have been subjected to degrading and humiliating treatment, and some have been tortured. More than 40 were convicted, and about a dozen, including several presidential candidates, remain imprisoned to this day. At a Helsinki Commission hearing that I chaired only last month, we heard shocking, heartbreaking testimony from one of the presidential candidates who had endured torture during his 2-month stay at a KGB prison—and, yes, Mr. Speaker, in Belarus, it is still called the KGB, reminding one how little Belarus has strayed from its dark, Soviet roots. In addition to the arrested, the families, the lawyers, the independent journalists and the democratic activists who are not yet in prison continue to be harassed and intimidated and their homes watched by the KGB. This has been the worst political crackdown in Europe in well over a decade.

The postelection crackdown has followed the pattern, however, of repression that has characterized Lukashenko's nearly 17-year rule. Through a series of rigged elections, large-scale intimidation, and the suppression of independent media and civil

society, the dictator has long consolidated his control over virtually all national institutions. His dictatorship has the worst record for human rights by far of any government in Europe.

Specifically, and significantly, the sanctions outlined in the bill are aimed at the senior leadership of the dictatorship that displays utter contempt for the dignity and the rights of the Belarusian people. With these sanctions we stand with the Belarusian people and against their oppressors.

H.R. 515 requires the State Department to issue a new report to Congress on the sale, delivery, or provision of weapons or weapons-related technologies or training; Lukashenko's personal wealth and assets; and cooperation by the Belarusian Government with any foreign government or organizations related to censorship or surveillance of the Internet.

H.R. 515 states a U.S. Government policy of strong support for the Belarusian people in their struggle against Lukashenko to live in a free, independent country where their human rights are respected. The bill encourages those struggling despite overwhelming pressures from an anti-democratic regime. It calls for a full accounting of the 1999 to 2000 disappearances. This morning I was with a woman whose husband disappeared, presumed to be dead by this regime, and she continues to this day struggling for human rights on behalf of her people now in exile.

It calls for and supports radio, television, and Internet broadcasting to Belarus, specifically Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, Voice of America, European Radio for Belarus, and the satellite television station BelSat.

It calls for a release of all of the political prisoners. We can't say that enough. We can't say it one day and forget it the next. We need to redouble our efforts, beginning today, to promote a free Belarus where all can live in peace, freedom and prosperity without that knock in the middle of the night by the KGB.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to congratulate my friend from New Jersey. He has been a passionate advocate for human rights across the board. He and I may not always agree on all issues, but his passion and his commitment to human rights universally cannot be questioned and has made a great contribution to this institution, and I thank him.

I believe that the yearning for human rights is a basic human yearning. It is not limited to the American culture or the Western culture, as we have seen in the outpouring of support during the Arab Spring for the basic human freedoms: the right to organize, the right to express politically, the right to practice one's religion freely, the right to organize political parties and to involve themselves in political dissent. These are universal yearnings, as our

Founders understood, in their genius, in the writing of the Declaration of Independence. And it is absolutely a fundamental American value that we proclaim those freedoms, and we assist those who seek actively in that yearning to implement those freedoms.

Again, I congratulate the distinguished chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and our colleague from New Jersey for their leadership.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I have no further requests for time. I just wanted to thank my friend from Virginia for his statements, and I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his leadership on all things related to human rights, freedom, and liberty.

What an interesting weekend that we saw, not just the death of Mr. Havel but, at the same time, the death of Kim Jong Il. What an incredible juxtaposition to see a wonderful human rights leader like Mr. Havel and then at the same time a terrible despot like Kim Jong Il who was responsible for actually starving his people as well as having them hunger for freedom and justice.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 515.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PROVIDING FOR PLACEMENT OF STATUE OR BUST OF WINSTON CHURCHILL IN CAPITOL

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 497) to provide for the placement of a statue or bust of Sir Winston Churchill in the United States Capitol.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 497

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 through 1945 and from 1951 through 1955;

Whereas the United States and the United Kingdom led the Allied Powers during World War Two;

Whereas President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Sir Winston Churchill formed a

bond that united freedom-loving people throughout the world to defeat tyranny in Europe and Asia;

Whereas, on December 26, 1941, Sir Winston Churchill addressed a Joint Session of Congress;

Whereas during that speech, Sir Winston Churchill said, "Sure I am that this day—now we are the masters of our fate; that the task which has been set us is not above our strength; that its pangs and tolls are not beyond our endurance. As long as we have faith in our cause and an unconquerable will-power, salvation will not be denied us. In the words of the Psalmist, 'He shall not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.' Not all the tidings will be evil.";

Whereas December 26, 2011, is the 70th anniversary of this speech to a joint session of Congress;

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill was made an Honorary Citizen of the United States by an act of Congress in 1963;

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1969;

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill's persistence, determination and resolve remains an inspiration to freedom-fighters all over the world;

Whereas the United Kingdom remains and will forever be an important and irreplaceable ally to the United States; and

Whereas the United States Capitol does not currently appropriately recognize the contributions of Sir Winston Churchill or that of the United Kingdom: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Architect of the Capitol place an appropriate statue or bust of Sir Winston Churchill in the United States Capitol at a location directed by the House Fine Arts Board in consultation with the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 497 and the placement of a statue or bust of Winston Churchill here in the United States Capitol. Winston Churchill was unique. An inspiration to millions around the world during World War II, Winston Churchill's eloquence and courage brought hope to those bound under the weight of tyranny and war.

His prose and his voice were direct and succinct. Churchill believed in calling things by their rightful names. When he secretly met with President Roosevelt in August of 1941 and signed the Atlantic Charter, Churchill made sure that it referred specifically to "Nazi tyranny." Always a straight shooter, Churchill called it like it was. In retrospect, many people think that

it's easy for that kind of nomenclature to be used, but at the time, it was unique. During the 1930s, when voice after voice cautioned against taking too strong a stance against Nazi Germany, Winston Churchill refused to ignore the gathering storm.

In 1982, Mr. Speaker, I was a young, second-term Member of this House. But I, like millions of Americans, was inspired that year by the actions and words of our 40th President, who traveled across the Atlantic in June of that year to address Parliament. He did so out of an appreciation of the common liberty-loving and natural rights-affirming heritage Great Britain and the United States had shared, and which he thought must be protected at all costs.

And as he should have, President Reagan quoted frequently from Churchill that day, for there was no other statesman in the 20th century who had thought, who had contemplated, who had written, and who had taught us about war, about the motives of man, and about the causes of and necessities present for civilization to survive. That is why Churchill's hatred of tyranny burned so deep, and why his warnings about oppression before and after the war were so prescient.

□ 1710

Mr. Speaker, during the long dark night of war in 1940 and 1941, before the United States was there to aid its ally, Britain suffered the horrors of attack after attack, as all others on the continent had fallen and it was left alone, separated only by the channel from utter destruction.

During Nazi bombing attacks on London, the great and majestic St. Paul's Cathedral was badly damaged. It looked like it would crumble in flames, but it did not. One of the most inspired images of the war is of St. Paul's with smoke billowing all around it, standing tall, refusing to fall, and reminding us of the things for which Britain was fighting. And like that image, Winston Churchill's example does the same, and so much more.

Almost 70 years ago to the day, Prime Minister Churchill risked his life in a U-boat attack in a secret voyage across the Atlantic. On December 26, 1941, in an address to a joint session of Congress, he said: "I avow my hope and faith, sure and inviolate, that in the days to come the British and American peoples will, for their own safety and for the good of all, walk together in majesty, in justice, and in peace." This is a charge to which I hope this Congress will still aspire.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Winston Churchill, who was Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1940 to

1945 and again from 1951 to 1955, is one of the foremost world figures of the 20th century. He was renowned for leading his nation through most of World War II. And in addition to his well-known oratory skills, Churchill was a talented writer and painter. And he's the only British Prime Minister to receive the Nobel Prize in literature for his numerous works, including the six-volume set "The Second World War."

Churchill served in the British House of Commons and as a Cabinet Minister in several posts before being selected as Prime Minister in 1940. A great ally to the United States during World War II, Churchill was the architect of the Grand Alliance between the United States and the Soviet Union. He forged a strong relationship with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and the two had numerous historic meetings shaping the direction of the war and what came after it. One such meeting resulted in the creation of the Atlantic Charter, which later led to the creation of the United Nations.

As with other historical figures, Mr. Speaker, Churchill's life was fraught with complexity and contradictions. He held antediluvian views with respect to race, for example, which was long a point of contention with respect to the peoples of India and his relationship specifically with Gandhi.

During World War I, he was First Lord of the Admiralty; and it was he who set in motion the failed assault at Gallipoli in a futile effort to capture the Ottoman capital of Constantinople in hopes of securing a sea route to Russia. That failure forced him out of the government, and it was years before he would return warning of the threat Hitler presented in Germany.

That ability to define injustice and pursue actions with clarity of purpose in the absolute face of evil no matter what the consequences is one of the traits that helped him transcend his human flaws and foibles and enter the ranks of the great statesmen of the 20th century.

He stood alone in the 1930s, issuing jeremiad after jeremiad about the Nazi threat; and his peers were heedless, tragically heedless, of his warning. His years in the political wilderness then showed consummate courage and resolve. He never lost the clarity of recognition of evil, and in fact that extended into a decade later when he warned in a Missouri speech about Stalin's Iron Curtain.

In recognition of his contributions to our Nation and our international alliances, Churchill was the first person to be made an honorary citizen of the United States. And it is fitting that we now recognize the 70th anniversary of his address before a joint session of Congress, mentioned by Mr. LUNGREN of California, by requesting to have a statue of him displayed here in the Capitol.

If would not be the first time Churchill's life work has been honored in this

Capitol. A bronze statuette of Churchill presented to the Joint Committee on the Library was in fact placed in Statuary Hall from 1985 to 1986, and it has since been on display in the Ways and Means Committee of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution honoring a great American ally, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the author of this resolution and distinguished Speaker of the House.

Mr. BOEHNER. I thank my colleague for yielding.

As they've pointed out, next week, December 26, marks the 70th anniversary of Winston Churchill's address to a joint meeting of the Congress.

Less than 3 weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Churchill arrived in Washington to begin coordinating military strategy with the President and leaders of Congress. During his address, he warned the Congress of the difficult path that lay ahead. He spoke of the many disappointments and unpleasant surprises that were going to await us.

Regarding the Japanese aggressors, he asked, "What kind of a people do they think we are? Is it possible that they do not realize that we shall never cease to persevere against them until they've been taught a lesson which they and the world will never forget?"

Churchill's joint address became known as the "Masters of Our Fate" speech. In it he said, "Now we are the masters of our fate. As long as we have faith in our cause and an unconquerable willpower, salvation will not be denied us."

In declaring war against the Axis powers, Churchill said, "the United States—united as never before—have drawn the sword for freedom and cast away the scabbard."

This resolution will honor the former British Prime Minister by placing a bust of him in the United States Capitol. The British, similarly, have a statue of Abraham Lincoln in the park across from their Parliament.

Winston Churchill was the best friend America ever had. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his legacy of persistence, determination, and resolve.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER), the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Elections for the Committee on House Administration.

Mr. HARPER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 497, providing for the placement of a statue or bust of Sir Winston Churchill in the United States Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, much has been said and written about Winston Churchill. Most

prominently, he served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 through 1945 and again from 1951 through 1955. But he was so much more.

During the 20th century's darkest hour, Winston Churchill warned of the approaching evil, stood tall when it arrived, and inspired his citizens and ours, and liberty-loving people around the world, to fight, to persevere, and to never surrender before victory was assured.

He knew that the long road of our humanity-affirming progress could not end and was not going to end in defeat to tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, we are, in fact, one week away, as has been said, from the 70th anniversary of Churchill's address to a joint session of Congress. On December 26, 1941, with our Nation still in shock after the attack on Pearl Harbor and simultaneous defeats and setbacks across the Pacific, and more than 2 long years since the invasion of Poland, Prime Minister Churchill, as this resolution reminds us, said: "Sure I am that this day—now we are the masters of our fate, that the task which has been set us is not above our strength, that its pains and toils are not beyond our endurance. As long as we have faith in our cause and an unconquerable willpower, salvation will not be denied us."

Mr. Speaker, World War II was a cataclysmic conflict which engulfed the world in 6 long and bloody years and took approximately 60 million lives.

□ 1720

Whole continents were engulfed in flames. Europe as we knew it was overrun. Poland, Belgium, France, Italy, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Greece, and many others all were conquered by the Nazi inferno, until only Britain stood alone. And in those days, Churchill, his people, the heroic Royal Air Force, and the courage summoned from the depths of their character rose to meet the evil face to face.

Mr. Speaker, Winston Churchill was made an Honorary Citizen of the United States by an act of Congress in 1963. He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1969. His strength, fortitude, and resolve have stood, and will forever stand, the test of time; and his life and example will be one of those guiding lights to which we always look in troublesome days, whenever they should appear.

It is more than appropriate to have a statue or bust of Sir Winston Churchill in our great Capitol, and I support H. Res. 497.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), a distinguished member of the Judiciary and Foreign Affairs Committees.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Winston Churchill, born to a British father and an American mother. Winston Churchill, to me, is the person of the

20th century that is an example of a leader that motivated the free world in its defeat of the tyrants of tyranny.

His importance to us here today is not only because he served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945 when our two nations battled together to save civilization from the grips of the Nazis and the Japanese, but also because of his steadfast unwillingness to ever surrender. He still serves as a guiding light to America and to free peoples throughout the world.

In World War II, during the Battle of Britain, London endured systematic bombing by the Luftwaffe for 76 consecutive nights, which destroyed or damaged over a million London homes and killed more than 40,000 British citizens. To bolster resolve among the British people, Winston Churchill gave the following speech:

"Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous states have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all of the apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail.

"We shall go on to the end; we shall fight in France; we shall fight on the seas and the oceans; we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air. We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be.

"We shall fight on the beaches; we shall fight on the landing grounds; we shall fight in the fields and in the streets; we shall fight in the hills.

"We shall never surrender."

Mr. Speaker, history shows Britain never did surrender. And along with the United States and the rest of the Allies, they defeated tyranny and the zeal of the Nazi to enslave peoples in the East and the West.

Today our country faces many daunting problems. The world is still a very dangerous place, and there are those who would snuff out the flame of freedom. We can learn from the resolve of Winston Churchill. Our Nation will get through tough times, both home and abroad, just as the Allies did in World War II.

Americans need to be strong and courageous, not timid and weak; work together and remember, as Churchill so eloquently encouraged the British people in 1940, that some things are worth fighting for. And, Mr. Speaker, America is one of those noble ideals.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman and the Speaker and the chairman for their kindness and recognition for 2 minutes today.

Coming in from Houston, I had the privilege of being with Reservists that

visited one of my hospitals that serves military families and, of course, the soldiers and veterans. They serve them on the issue of posttraumatic stress disorder.

I say that because it was a feeling of warmth and family, first acknowledging, as I wear this yellow ribbon, of those who have come home and those who have done their duty.

I believe that the acknowledgment of Sir Winston Churchill is an appropriate action for this Congress, but really on behalf of the American people. And I read quickly this quote in brief of his words: "Sure I am that this day, now, we are the masters of our fate; that the task which has been set us is not above our strength."

Although this was in the context of World War II, I plead with my colleagues who are all arriving back by train, bus, airplane, and car, that this is a time that is within our strength to not, in any way, yield to the tasks and not accomplish on behalf of the American people. We are masters of our fate.

We have before us the Senate conference on the payroll tax and employment extension. Vote on it. Vote together in a bipartisan manner. Realize that there are differences, but that we have another day, as was devised by the Senate, by February, to be able to debate this issue.

The American people thought this was settled.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. People who are hungry for payroll tax relief, \$1,000; people who are looking for the unemployment extension; those who are getting \$1,000, those who would be beneficiaries of the 400,000 jobs, and those who will be beneficiaries of the unemployment extension that will help them pay their mortgage or help them pay their rent or food or the necessities of life, putting those monies into the economy, the American people thought we were finished, thought we had compromised, thought we had risen to our higher angels.

And so, if our soldiers and those who are returning can do their job, I'm pleading, in a bipartisan manner, let us vote for the Senate bill. Let us move this forward, and let us realize that we are the masters of our fate.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Returning to the subject at hand, we have the great portrait of General Lafayette here in the House Chamber, one of seven honorary citizens of the United States, Winston Churchill being another.

Winston Churchill was, as is evident, one of the great men of the last century, one for whom inspiration was a way of life, and one who, as the Speaker said just a few moments ago, was the best ally that the United States has ever had.

As a young boy, having been born somewhat after World War II, I remember with fascination seeing this figure on television. He seemed to remind me of every newborn baby I've ever seen. They all look like Winston Churchill without the cigar. You wondered what was it that made this man great. And you began to read history. You began to talk with your father who had served in World War II about what this man was, and you realized this was someone who, in his youth, was involved in cavalry charges, and in his oldest age, was leader of a country at the beginning of the thermonuclear world.

Talk about the span of time and the span of greatness and the ability to perceive, through all of that time, despite his mistakes, being a fallible man, perceive the greatness of the individual and the opportunity that democracy gives to individuals as no other form of government does.

□ 1730

At the time when he criticized Nazi Germany, it was not something that all then said. The late Christopher Hitchens, in an April 2002 article in "The Atlantic," said this:

But alone among his contemporaries, Churchill did not denounce the Nazi empire merely as a threat, actual or potential, to the British one. Nor did he speak of it as a depraved but possibly useful ally. He excoriated it as a wicked and nihilistic thing. That appears facile now, but was exceedingly uncommon then. In what was perhaps his best ever speech, delivered to the Commons 5 days after the Munich agreement on October 5, 1938, Churchill gave voice to the idea that even a "peace-loving" coexistence with Hitler had something rotten about it. "What I find unendurable is the sense of our country falling into the power, into the orbit and influence of Nazi Germany, and of our existence becoming dependent upon their good will or pleasure."

That was an uncommon statement at the time. That was a courageous statement at the time. That was a visionary statement at the time.

It is to honor that vision, it is to honor that ally, it is to honor that person who was dedicated to the best of Western civilization, who was one who stood with very few at a time when that civilization was threatened as never before.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be on the floor to offer this resolution to allow for, to authorize, a statue or bust of Winston Churchill here in the United States Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time as I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 497.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2302

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. Foxx) at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 3630, MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 501, SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING ANY FINAL MEASURE TO EXTEND CERTAIN EXPIRING PROVISIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-335) on the resolution (H. Res. 502) providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 3630) to provide incentives for the creation of jobs, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 501) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding any final measure to extend the payroll tax holiday, extend Federally funded unemployment insurance benefits, or prevent decreases in reimbursement for physicians who provide care to Medicare beneficiaries; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 4 of rule XVI, I move that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DIAZ-BALART (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of a family medical issue.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and for the balance of the week.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1710. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, as the James M. Fitzgerald United States Courthouse; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S. 1959. An act to require a report on the designation of the Haqqani Network as a foreign terrorist organization and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 789. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Main Street in Little Ferry, New Jersey, as the "Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton Post Office".

H.R. 1264. An act to designate the property between the United States Federal Courthouse and the Ed Jones Building located at 109 South Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee, as the "M.D. Anderson Plaza" and to authorize the placement of a historical/identification marker on the grounds recognizing the achievements and philanthropy of M.D. Anderson.

H.R. 1892. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2422. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Bay Street, Suite 2, in Staten Island, New York, as the "Sergeant Angel Mendez Post Office".

H.R. 2845. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for enhanced safety and environmental protection in pipeline transportation, to provide for enhanced reliability in the transportation of the Nation's energy products by pipeline, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2867. An act to reauthorize the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3421. An act to award Congressional Gold Medals in honor of the men and women who perished as a result of the terrorist attack on the United States on September 11, 2001.

H.R. 3672. An act making appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 94. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 278. An act to provide for the exchange of certain land located in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 20, 2011, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4327. A letter from the Acting Deputy Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Quality Control Error Tolerance Threshold [FNS-2011-0060] (RIN: 0584-AE24) received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4328. A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Karnal Bunt: Regulated Areas in California [Docket No.: APHIS-2011-0074] received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4329. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4330. A letter from the Deputy to the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Resolution Plans Required (RIN: 3064-AD77) received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4331. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Repeal of Regulations (RIN: 2590-AA52) received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4332. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Voluntary Mergers of Federal Home Loan Banks (RIN: 2590-AA37) received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4333. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report for the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act; to the Committee on the Budget.

4334. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Bidding by Affiliates in Open Seasons for Pipeline Capacity [Docket No.: RM11-15-000; Order No. 894] received December 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4335. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: MAGNASTOR System, Revision 2 [NRC-2011-0008] (RIN: 3150-AI91) received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4336. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f)

of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 17-11 informing of an intent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding Among Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and New Zealand; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4337. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, and continued by the President each year, most recently on November 9, 2011; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4338. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4339. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4340. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report to Congress for the reporting period ending September 30, 2011; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4341. A letter from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting the Gallery's Performance and Accountability Report including audited financial statements for fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4342. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2011; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4343. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a separate management report for the period April 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4344. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of workers from the Norton Company in Worcester, Massachusetts, to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4345. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Proposed Method of Accounting for OID on a Pool of Credit Card Receivables [Notice 2011-99] received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4346. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Modification of Rev. Proc. 2009-20 on Theft Loss Deductions for Fraudulent Investment Arrangements (Rev. Proc. 2011-58) received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 3029. A bill to reduce the size of the Federal workforce through attrition, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 112-334). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 502. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 3630) to provide incentives for the creation of jobs, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 501) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding any final measure to extend the payroll tax holiday, extend Federally funded unemployment insurance benefits, or prevent decreases in reimbursement for physicians who provide care to medicare beneficiaries; and for other purposes (Rept. 112-335). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.R. 3727. A bill to allow for innovations and alternative technologies that meet or exceed desired energy efficiency goals; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHOCK (for himself and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 3728. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make members of health care sharing ministries eligible to establish health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky (for himself and Mr. LEVIN):

H.R. 3729. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H.R. 3730. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide notice to individuals whose sensitive personal information is involved in a data breach, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 3731. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to tax bona fide residents of the District of Columbia in the same manner as bona fide residents of possessions of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 3732. A bill to provide for the retrocession of the District of Columbia to Maryland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 3733. A bill to reduce the interest rates on mortgages owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

H.R. 3734. A bill to make a technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 3735. A bill to provide for enhanced penalties to combat Medicare and Medicaid fraud, a Medicare data-mining system and biometric technology pilot program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WHITFIELD (for himself and Mr. BOSWELL):

H.R. 3736. A bill to provide \$50,000,000,000 in new transportation infrastructure funding through bonding to empower States and local governments to complete significant infrastructure projects across all modes of transportation, including roads, bridges, rail and transit systems, ports, and inland waterways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRICE of Georgia:

H. Res. 501. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding any final measure to extend the payroll tax holiday, extend Federally funded unemployment insurance benefits, or prevent decreases in reimbursement for physicians who provide care to Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, House Administration, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.R. 3727.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3—The Commerce Clause and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—Necessary and Proper Clause.

By Mr. SCHOCK:

H.R. 3728.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress as stated in Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky:

H.R. 3729.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana:

H.R. 3730.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 12, 13, and 14 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 3731.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, U.S. Constitution:

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 3732.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, US Constitution:

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 3733.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. HEINRICH:

H.R. 3734.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 3735.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. WHITFIELD:

H.R. 3736.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, that grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 12: Mr. STARK.

H.R. 32: Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 145: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 178: Mr. SCHILLING.

H.R. 708: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 835: Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 860: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 890: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 905: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 959: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1054: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1063: Mr. DOYLE and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 1148: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1166: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. BARROW.

H.R. 1294: Mr. KUCINICH and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1295: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1370: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, and Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 1385: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1513: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1519: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1580: Mr. BOREN, Ms. BUERKLE, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. CHANDLER.
H.R. 1614: Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 1648: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 1700: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 1718: Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 1738: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. DENT, Ms. CHU, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1744: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 1815: Mr. BONNER, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. MICA, Mrs. ADAMS, Mr. CARTER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. PETRI, Mr. TERRY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. HALL, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BOEHNER, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. COLE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SCALISE, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. LATHAM, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BERG, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Ms. HAYWORTH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1842: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 1897: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 1964: Mr. FINCHER.
H.R. 1968: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1978: Ms. MOORE and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 2070: Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 2077: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 2104: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 2139: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 2159: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 2182: Mr. MCHENRY and Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 2232: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 2248: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2288: Mr. FILNER and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 2404: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2446: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 2453: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. BACA, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HONDA, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. REYES, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 2492: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 2528: Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 2569: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 2679: Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 2705: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 2746: Mr. REYES.
H.R. 2866: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. COSTELLO.
H.R. 2925: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 2948: Ms. SUTTON and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 2962: Mr. DUFFY.
H.R. 2966: Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.
H.R. 2970: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 2981: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 3000: Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 3367: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 3422: Mr. CANSECO.
H.R. 3425: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.
H.R. 3432: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 3461: Mr. AKIN, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 3521: Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 3542: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3578: Mr. ROKITA and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.
H.R. 3582: Mr. REED and Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 3589: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 3601: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 3626: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 3638: Mr. NADLER and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 3643: Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado.
H.R. 3676: Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BARLETTA, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. ROSS of Florida.
H.R. 3704: Mr. GRIMM.
H.R. 3717: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 3720: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H. Con. Res. 85: Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. MICHAUD, and Ms. HIRONO.
H. Con. Res. 87: Mr. MCINTYRE and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H. Res. 137: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H. Res. 295: Mr. RUSH.
H. Res. 460: Mr. NADLER and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 489: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. PALAZZO, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. KLINE, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, and Mr. HALL.
H. Res. 490: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. LATTI, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE DEATH OF VACLAV HAVEL,
FORMER PRESIDENT OF CZECHO-
SLOVAKIA AND THE CZECH RE-
PUBLIC

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, history is often made by Generals and politicians; rarely has the course of history been forever altered by a playwright. We are saddened that we have lost Vaclav Havel, former President of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic, but we must remember that this man lived his life with courage and a fundamental sense for what was right. His was a life well-lived, which he used to change our world for the better no matter the personal cost.

Americans will never forget this man or the role he played in the peaceful dissolution of the Evil Empire and the unification of Europe and the expansion of NATO. The support of the American people for our Czech allies and their commitment to the U.S.-Czech alliance as well as a shared belief in the rights and dignity of man continues today. Havel's life is a testament to his observation that "words can prove mightier than ten military divisions." The thoughts of all Americans are with Havel's family and the Czech people. We are immeasurably better off for his life and his example.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NANCY
GOOD

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a longtime constituent of mine who recently passed away. Nancy Good was a social and political activist whose career, which was focused on bettering the lives of others, spanned several decades and three continents. Nancy was especially committed to furthering the cause of civil rights, and was an enthusiastic advocate of racially integrated neighborhoods, a cause she worked on both in Washington, DC, and Denver. She died August 24th at St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver after a brief illness at the age of 89.

After World War II, she worked in Germany to repatriate displaced persons for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and edited the agency newsletter. It was during this time that she met her husband, Robert C. Good, and together they opened a settlement house under the sponsorship of the American Friends Service Committee in Frankfurt in 1947, work for which she was honored fifty years later by the German government.

Nancy moved to Denver with her family in 1953 and worked for the Social Science Foun-

dation at the University of Denver (D.U.). She worked with community groups to establish fair housing practices among Denver realtors. She was also very active with the ACLU during this time.

A long career detour took the Goods to Washington, DC, where Nancy worked for the Washington Planning and Housing Agency. Nancy organized Democracy in Action, which took groups of DC junior high school students to meet with Senators, Supreme Court Justices and members of the Kennedy administration to learn firsthand about the workings of the federal government. The Goods lived in France in 1959, and in 1965, her husband was appointed the first U.S. Ambassador to Zambia, where Nancy remained active with the Girl Guides and with hunger relief projects.

In 1971 the Goods moved back to Denver when Bob Good was appointed head of the Graduate School of International Studies at D.U. Nancy worked for Mayor Bill McNichols's Commission on Community Relations (working with John Simonet on police sensitivity training among other issues) and Commission on Aging (where she started the Wise Old Owls gift shop to sell crafts made by seniors). Her proudest accomplishment at this time was helping to start Denver's first Community Gardens project under the leadership of Min Yasui.

In 1976 the Goods moved to Granville, Ohio, when Bob Good became President of Denison University. At Denison, Nancy oversaw a three year renovation of a derelict Victorian building in the center of the campus, which became the Good's residence and the center of social and intellectual life of the university. Bob and Nancy returned to Denver in 1984.

Nancy was a proud longtime Democratic Party activist. She worked on election after election, bringing in cadres of volunteers to elect the Jerry Kopels, Pat Schroeders and Wellington Webbs of Denver. She was a member of the Downtown Democratic Forum, the Social Legislation Committee and the League of Women Voters, and spent her life fighting for positive social change in her community.

It may be for a more light-hearted institution, however, that she will be remembered by generations of Denver children. "Eggnog for Eggheads," a Christmas party, was given by Nancy for 40 consecutive years. The party eventually grew to become an all-day affair with a guest list of over 1,000 attendees including Mayors, Congresswomen and professors who mingled with Nancy's Park Hill neighbors. Kids built houses, castles and other architectural wonders from sugar cubes and frosting in the Goods' basement which were later donated to children in hospitals across the city. In honor of the popular gathering, Mayor Wellington Webb declared "Eggnog for Eggheads Day" in Denver on December 3rd 1996.

Nancy is greatly missed by friends and family and will be remembered most for her enthusiastic nature, zest for life, and commitment

to political and social change and for the great love she had for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND
JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the so-called Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (H.R. 3630). The title of this bill is misleading at best. H.R. 3630 does not create jobs or relieve the struggles of the middle class. Instead, it drastically reduces federal benefits for the unemployed and slashes health care funding by over \$17 billion. Moreover, it contains highly partisan and controversial policy riders that would have no chance of becoming law if considered under regular order.

Let me be clear. Congress must extend the payroll tax cut and offset the extension responsibly. Federal unemployment benefits, in their current form, must be extended before the end of the year. We must prevent a 27.4 percent cut to Medicare physician payments that jeopardize seniors' access to necessary health services. Action is urgently needed to address these issues. However, the House Republican proposal before us today unjustly places the burden of paying for these fixes on those in our society who can least afford it: the unemployed, low-income families, and seniors.

In this bill, House Republicans cut the weeks of unemployment insurance by more than half: from 99 to 59 weeks. Over 43,000 out-of-work Minnesotans will lose unemployment insurance as a result of this change. This is economically counter-productive and morally wrong. This provision will do real harm to Minnesota families and undermine our fragile economic recovery. The result of this cut would be more foreclosures, more repossessions, more homelessness and more anguish for struggling mothers, fathers and children.

Remarkably, my Republican colleagues are heaping insult on this injury by inserting a provision to allow drug testing of applicants for unemployment insurance. Notably, this provision does not apply to the millions of Americans who receive federal funding through other programs and tax benefits. With this ridiculous provision, Republicans are telling millions of unemployed Americans they are untrustworthy and irresponsible. Republicans are choosing to waste taxpayer funds on a big-government drug testing program instead of providing much-needed support to families struggling with unemployment. I could not disagree more with the shameful priorities expressed through the inclusion of this provision.

H.R. 3630 also cuts more than \$17 billion in federal funding from hospitals and health providers. This cut will reduce reimbursements for

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

outpatient services, cut payments for unpaid health care debts, shrink the prevention and public health fund, and impose an increase in Medicare Part B premiums for certain beneficiaries. These cuts threaten to restrict access of low-income Minnesotans and seniors to needed health care services.

The House Republican majority had other options for offsetting the costs of H.R. 3630. Among those options was a small and temporary increase on the amount of taxes paid by those Americans least affected by the Great Recession. House Democrats will attempt to improve H.R. 3630 today during floor debate by replacing cuts to health care and unemployment insurance with a 3.6 percent surcharge on incomes over \$1 million a year. At a time when income inequality in America is at an all-time high, this is a necessary step to restore economic fairness and opportunity. I will support this motion when it comes to a vote this afternoon.

This Democratic motion is also important because it includes language requiring Members of Congress to publicly disclose their personal trading activity in the stock market. Increasing transparency to prevent Members of Congress from inappropriately profiting from insider knowledge is a common-sense reform that should be immediately enacted. If these improvements to H. R. 3630 are not included, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the legislation.

This bill is likely to be a missed opportunity for true compromise. It does important things, such as extending the payroll tax cut for 160 million Americans and preventing a 27.4 percent cut to Minnesota physician reimbursements with a two-year fix. In addition, it extends the physician work geographic adjustment, which ensures Minnesota providers are not additionally penalized by the Medicare payment system. Yet, the decision to pay for these measures with cuts to seniors, low-income families and unemployed Americans was entirely avoidable and thus, completely unacceptable.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in the FY12 NDAA a drafting error was uncovered in section 1045.

Subsection (c) of section 1045 reads "If, during any year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the President makes a proposal described in subsection b" the Commander of STRATCOM shall take a prescribed action.

This provision should have read, "If, during any year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the President makes a proposal described in paragraph 2" the Commander of STRATCOM shall take a prescribed action.

As the Joint Statement of Managers to the Conference Report makes clear:

Finally, the conference agreement would, in any year in which the President makes a

proposal to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the active or inactive stockpiles of the United States to a level that is lower than the level on the date of enactment of this Act, require the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command to conduct a net assessment of the current and proposed nuclear forces of the United States and of other countries to determine whether the proposed U.S. nuclear forces would be capable of meeting U.S. objectives of nuclear deterrence, extended deterrence, assurance of allies, and defense. The Secretary of Defense would be required to submit the Commander's unaltered net assessment, together with any explanatory views of the Secretary, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives. In any such year, the Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration would also be required to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, a report describing the current capacities of the U.S. nuclear weapons infrastructure to respond to strategic developments or technical problems in the nuclear weapons stockpile.

While Congress addresses this, and any other technical corrections needed in the bill, I urge STRATCOM and the Administrator of the NNSA to construe this legislation per the clear intent.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. This legislation, which provides \$662 billion in funding for fiscal year 2012, is not perfect but I will vote in favor of it for three principal reasons. First, it provides for troop and equipment readiness. Second, it provides much needed help and support for military families. Third, it authorizes critical investments in technology to ensure that the United States is prepared to defend against emerging threats now and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is of utmost importance that our troops deployed in Afghanistan, Iraq, and around the world have the equipment, resources, authorities, training, and time needed to successfully complete their missions and return home. This bill does that.

H.R. 1540 also provides their families with the resources and support they need and deserve. Specifically, the bill provides for enlistment and reenlistment bonuses, retention and accession pay for critical skills, and hazardous duty pay. As my colleagues across both aisles would agree, it is our responsibility to ensure that our troops that have sacrificed for us receive the resources they need for success and the benefits they deserve.

Further, the bill recognizes the importance of investing in future capability and technology to meet emerging challenges on the battlefield of today and in the future. We live in an age in which the security challenges facing our nation are ever-evolving and increasing in technological sophistication and complexity. We must take the necessary steps to ensure that

the United States stays in the forefront of technological advances and is equipped with vigorous capabilities in order to be able to successfully detect, deter, and defeat terrorist plots, cyber attacks, and other emerging threats. The bill before us will help us meet these challenges.

Let me briefly highlight some of the key provisions included in this legislation which I support:

I. TROOP AND EQUIPMENT READINESS

1. Provides \$22.8 billion for the training of all active-duty and reserve forces to increase readiness;
2. Authorizes \$396.8 million for C-17 modernization;
3. Provides \$6.3 billion to fund Navy ship and aircraft depot maintenance;
4. Provides \$4.5 billion for Army and Marine Corps equipment reset and depot maintenance;
5. Provides \$7.7 billion for Air Force weapon system sustainment;
6. Allocates just under \$1 billion to support the Army's planned return to full-spectrum training; and
7. Provides \$13 billion for Military Construction, base realignment and closures, and military family housing.

II. HELP FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

1. Provides a 1.6 percent military pay raise
2. Ensures fair TRICARE premiums

III. INVESTING IN FUTURE TECHNOLOGY

1. Extends important budget authorities to allow defense laboratories to recruit and retain the brightest scientists;
2. Expands developmental test and evaluation management for major defense acquisition programs;
3. Directs an assessment of mechanisms to employ non-U.S. citizens with critical scientific and technical skills; and
4. Expands pilot program for the integration of technology protection features during research and development to include contractor cost-sharing.

Mr. Speaker, I do not support the provisions in the bill regarding the treatment of detainees suspected of terrorism. I believe they are decidedly unhelpful and thus agree with the administration and those distinguished legal scholars who assert that mandatory military custody is "undue and dangerous," and that these provisions would "severely and recklessly undermine" our Nation's counterterrorism efforts.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support the NDAA for FY 2012 because it authorizes the needed investments to keep our nation safe and enhances our defense infrastructure, along with taking care of our military personnel, and authorizing continued funding for the C-17 air transport.

REMEMBERING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARTIAL LAW IN POLAND

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Poland caucus, to remember the declaration of martial law in Poland 30 years ago

this month, and to pay tribute to the men and women of Poland who triumphed against repression, ultimately helping to bring democracy to a whole continent.

It is well known that in Poland the resistance to communism was particularly broad and deep—Stalin is reputed to have said that trying to impose communism on Poland was like trying to put a saddle on a cow. And so for several decades, Poles pushed back against the dictatorship that had been imposed on their exhausted country at the end of World War II. They pushed back in 1956 when workers from Poznan marched to Warsaw demanding “bread and freedom.” They pushed back through actions by students and intellectuals in 1964 and in 1968. And workers took to the streets again in Gdansk in 1970, including one young man named Lech Walesa. Each time the communist government managed to keep itself in power through a combination of force, threats of force, concessions, and by divisively playing one group of Poles off against another group. But never was the Poles’ desire for freedom extinguished or even diminished. Indeed it seemed to grow year by year.

In June 1979, when Pope John Paul II made his historic visit to Poland, he urged his countrymen and women: “Be not afraid.” A year later, in August 1980, the world stood in awe as shipyard workers struck at the Lenin factory in Gdansk, catapulting an unknown electrician, Lech Walesa, to the world stage. On August 31, Solidarity, the Warsaw Pact’s first truly independent trade union was born.

Solidarity, of course, was much more than a trade union. Strikers in Gdansk included in their original 21 demands not only improved working conditions, but respect for freedom of speech and the press, religious liberties, and freedom for political prisoners. Over the next year and a half, Solidarity’s card-carrying membership would grow to encompass nearly one-third of Poland’s working-age population, but its influence was beyond measure. Moreover, Solidarity ultimately brought together diverse segments of the population—workers and peasants, students and intellectuals—that had not previously worked together for a common cause. And in Solidarity, one could see a nation acting for a high moral purpose, informed by church and conscience, and by a tradition of Polish patriotism.

Inevitably, Solidarity was seen as a threat not only to the communist authorities in Warsaw, but to their taskmasters in Moscow, who escalated pressure on Warsaw to impose a crackdown that would silence the growing movement. At midnight, on December 13, 1981, martial law was declared, and a military government was established. Poland’s borders were sealed and its airspace closed. Phone service throughout the country was suspended. The routine sale of gasoline ceased. A curfew was established. Strikes, demonstrations, meetings, and public gatherings were banned. Solidarity was outlawed. Open censorship of mail was introduced and normal radio and television broadcasting was replaced with a loop of General Jaruzelski intoning that Poland was on the edge of an abyss. Tanks rumbled down Warsaw’s broad boulevards, and the whiff of tear gas tinged the air.

Approximately 10,000 people were arrested during the Martial Law period, and dozens of people were killed, most notoriously during the “pacification” of the Wujek Coal Mine. The

harshest controls were eased within weeks or months and martial law was formally lifted on July 22, 1983, but various forms of oppression continued for years. Many political prisoners were not released until the general amnesty in 1986, 5 years later.

Nevertheless, throughout the 1980s, and notwithstanding martial law, dissent in Poland burgeoned. By 1988, the ability of Solidarity to mount continuing strikes had forced the communist regime to blink—roundtable negotiations between the authorities and the opposition began in early 1988, and the Solidarity movement was formally re-legalized on April 7. When Solidarity’s official spokesman, Janusz Onyszkiewicz, testified before me at a Helsinki Commission hearing in September 1988, it was the first time that the Helsinki Commission received testimony from a Warsaw Pact dissident who was actually planning to return to his home country.

The roundtable talks eventually led to an agreement that 35% of the seats in parliament would be freely and fairly contested in the June 1989 elections, and all of the seats would be contested 4 years after that. The die, of course, was cast: when it came time to form a government, Solidarity put forward their own slate of candidates for prime minister. On August 19, 1989, Tadeusz Mazowiecki was elected Poland’s first non-Communist prime minister in 40 years. Poland rightly deserves credit for playing a critical role in advancing human rights and democratic forms throughout the entire Warsaw Pact region. In fact, Poland rightly deserves credit for helping to dissolve the Warsaw Pact.

We all remember the fall of the Berlin Wall—one of the greatest moments of the 20th century. Let’s not forget that, to a very great extent, the movement that brought down the Wall was “made in Poland,” or at least owes an immense debt to the Poles. For 45 years the Poles took the lead, within eastern Europe, in pushing back on communist rule, testing the limits of what the Soviets would tolerate. In other words, taking the risks. The rhythm of Polish uprisings and mass movements against communism is instructive: in 1944, the Nazis, with nearby Soviet forces blocking allied assistance, crushed the Warsaw Uprising; 12 years later, in 1956, the Poles were rioting again, and they wrung concessions out of the communist government; 12 years later, in 1968–1970, the same thing happened; then six later, in 1976; then 3 years later, in 1979 the visit of the new pope saw what amounted to massive demonstration of support for the Polish Catholic tradition which were at the same time demonstrations against communist tyranny; then 1 year later, in 1980, Solidarity was formed. But as the declaration of martial law demonstrated, the communists would only be able to exercise meaningful control through the use of an ultimately unsustainable degree of force. By the summer of 1989, it was clear that the Poles had stood down the Soviet Union. The communist parties of the eastern bloc were on their own, facing their peoples without Soviet military backing, setting the stage for them all to be swept from power.

So let’s remember that from the 1950s through the 1980s the Polish people, acting for high moral purposes—religious freedom, human rights, liberty, solidarity, patriotism—ran great risks—even the risk of another Russian invasion and they succeeded to the en-

during benefit not only of their own citizens, but all those around the globe who share those purposes.

At the end of this month, Poland will wrap up its tenure as the president of the European Union. It has come a very long way from the dark days of martial law and I am grateful that, as the United States seeks to promote democracy and human rights around the globe, Poland stands beside us as a leader in this effort.

THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the Kingdom of Morocco is an important strategic partner, and I support its continuing reform efforts to make it a more democratic and prosperous nation. Last month’s elections in Morocco were another important step toward building a more democratic and inclusive country. The level of participation in the election of a new parliament demonstrates popular support for this reform agenda.

I support the democratic aspirations of the Moroccan people and encourage its new parliament and government to follow through on constitutional and other reforms to protect fundamental freedoms and human rights.

Additionally, the U.S. must continue to seek a fair, just, and enduring solution to the Western Sahara in order to promote regional integration and protect U.S. security interests in the region.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RON LYLE

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ron Lyle, a Colorado resident and professional boxer who passed away late last month.

In Colorado’s surprisingly rich boxing history, Lyle stands alongside names like Jack Dempsey and Sonny Liston not only for his success in the ring but for his commitment to giving back to his community after retirement.

His story is one of redemption. Born into a family of 19 children in a downtrodden area of Northeast Denver, Lyle dropped out of school at age 19 and was subsequently convicted of second-degree murder in the death of a local gang-rival. Lyle, who had always been an impressive athlete growing up, learned to box in prison, and was pardoned 7½ years later by Colorado Gov. John Love.

Upon his release, Lyle pursued a career in boxing, winning the National Amateur Union heavyweight championship at age 28 before turning pro at the relatively old age of 29. He won his first 19 bouts, including an impressive 17 of them by KO.

As Lyle’s professional boxing career came of age, it did so during the golden-era for heavyweight fighting. The mid-1970’s was the time of Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, and

Joe Frazier—it was a time when families would gather around the radio or the network television as Howard Cosell narrated the poetic clash of power, resilience and grace that is a heavyweight title fight. During this time, Lyle fought Muhammad Ali, Earnie Shavers, and George Foreman, taking Ali to the 11th round before losing by TKO, knocking-out Shavers in the 6th, and knocking down Foreman twice before suffering a KO late in the 5th. While calling the Lyle-Foreman fight for ABC's "Wide World of Sports," Cosell remarked "it's not artistic, but it is slugging!"

Lyle retired from boxing in 1980, and then attempted a brief comeback in 1995, when he won four more fights. After retirement he dedicated himself to coaching boxing in his old neighborhood, hoping to give children the same opportunities that boxing had afforded him. On most any given afternoon he was down at the Salvation Army Red Shield Center in Denver's Five Points neighborhood, coaching at the boxing program that bore his name and teaching not just the right jab and left hook, but also the discipline and focus that allowed him to go toe-toe with the great heavyweights of his era.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Lyle was an inspiration to our community—a role model whose impressive 43–7–1 record nonetheless does not do justice to what he meant to those around him. He will be sorely missed, but his legacy will continue to shape young boxers and help write the next chapter in Colorado's boxing history.

HONORING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE ACHIEVEMENTS OF FRANKLIN FRYER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of Franklin Fryer. In his 57 years of service to the Town of Weymouth, Massachusetts, Franklin helped advance many important initiatives and tirelessly served his community. Now at age 90, as he celebrates his retirement from public life at the end of this month, I am proud to join family, friends, colleagues, and community leaders in thanking him for his many years of commitment to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Franklin is that rare individual who dedicates his entire life's work to public service. After bravely serving as a Marine in World War II, he returned to his native Weymouth to continue his civic service. In 1955, he was elected to the Board of Selectmen, where he served until 1973. Three years later, Franklin was elected Town Clerk, a position he has held ever since. But those are just the positions he held; they don't speak to the countless hours and services he has dedicated to his community in excess of his job. Franklin is a reflection of all that we hope and expect community leaders to be. The Town of Weymouth would not be the same without him, so it was a fitting tribute that the office where he had been working for the past 12 years was renamed in his honor. Franklin's retirement marks the end of an era for the Weymouth community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Franklin Fryer for his dedication to the people

of Weymouth, Massachusetts. He is an excellent role model for young adults, a leader for his fellow community members and a shining example of what it means to be a public servant. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him many more years of health and happiness.

A CHANUKA MESSAGE

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter a statement into the RECORD on behalf of my constituent, Dr. Israel Zoberman. Dr. Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is also the president of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and Cantors. Dr. Zoberman asked me to enter the following remarks into the RECORD regarding Chanuka. Dr. Zoberman's statement follows.

Chanuka's origins in the drama of a small people standing up to the might of the Hellenistic empire of antiquity is a poignant symbol and a timeless reminder of Israel's unique and timely legacy. The Maccabees' successful revolt in 167 B.C.E. against the dictates of King Antiochus IV that sought to deprive the Jews of practicing their faith, was truly a stance of a proud conscience. Our refusal to submit to a superior physical power when our spiritual inheritance was at stake, is a clear indication of how deep a bond we held with our religious convictions, ready to sacrifice the sacred gift of life for the sake of an ancestral covenant with the God of Freedom and Responsibility.

The word Chanuka and its very meaning represent the spirit of dedication to noble ideals and ideas through the cleansing of Jerusalem's temple of old from pagan defilement. The Talmud's insisting focus on the miracle of the cruse of oil lasting eight days reflects the Rabbis' aversion to the bloodshed and the Hasmoneans' intra-political strife, associated with the war and beyond. Consequently, the Book of the Maccabees was not included in our own Biblical canon but was fortunately preserved through the Catholic one. In truth, the conflict was not only against the enemy from without, but also in response to the experienced assimilation from within. The encounter with the dominant, flourishing and tempting Greek culture led, however, to a fruitful engagement influencing Rabbinic thought and logic.

The flickering lights of Chanuka have come to represent through centuries of trying suffering the miracle of Jewish survival in spite of great odds, while endowing the human family with an enduring, undying hope for a world transformed and redeemed. Let us continue to pray and labor that the ancient promise of prophetic Shalom from the hills of Judea, the first such inspiring and courageous message of universal embrace, will yet be realized for all of God's children including the offspring of Isaac and Ishmael whose familial bond cannot be denied. How frustrating that there are Palestinian leaders attempting to re-write history by removing the incontrovertible Jewish connection with the Temple Mount, seeking to extinguish Chanuka's authenticity.

As our American nation, the State of Israel and the entire free world fight the blight of contemporary terrorism with Iran begrudging the Maccabean victory leading

the way, much can be learned from the Maccabees' old and new saga and spirit. The terrorists negate the life-enlightening, pluralistic and inclusive principles of Chanuka's bright Menorah daring to challenge the darkness. All humans have now become like vulnerable Jews yet empowered with our people's indomitable faith and heroic example to face an oppressive foe—physically, spiritually, and psychologically—and prevail.

HAROLD ANDERSON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Harold Anderson, President of the Board of the Costilla Conservation District. Mr. Anderson was inducted into the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts' Conservation Hall of Fame on November 16, 2011.

Mr. Anderson, of Jaroso, Colorado, is known among his peers for his dedication to his duties, knowledge of the area's most important issues, and reliability. He is a tireless supporter of the farmers and ranchers that form the bedrock of his community, and works with fellow board members to keep the focus on what they can do for Costilla County. Friends say that he is "a heck of a cattle hauler, too."

Since his appointment to the Board in 1999, Mr. Anderson has earned a reputation for making things happen, whether it's a community event, scholarship program, or teaching workshop. During a difficult time full of management turnover, he kept the District on firm footing, often by assuming extra duties.

Mr. Anderson's family has been a part of the San Luis Valley for generations, beginning when his grandfather moved into the farmhouse where they still reside in the late 1920s. He has been married to his wife Kathy for 39 years, and together they raised a son and two daughters. Harold is a member of the numerous local boards, committees, and cattlemen's associations, and was appointed by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to serve on the Rio Grande Natural Habitat Initiative.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Harold Anderson. I rise today to thank him for his public spirit and devotion to the conservation needs of Costilla County, Colorado.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORT WALTON BEACH GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUB

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fort Walton Beach General Federation of Women's Club on their 90th Anniversary. For nearly a century, the Fort Walton Beach General Federation of Women's Club has served the Northwest Florida community with continuous benevolence.

The Fort Walton Beach General Federation of Women's Club's history dates back to the

early 1900s, when a group of women pioneers and settlers assembled to address community needs. They provided local law enforcement when no other authority existed, medicinal services when a doctor was not available, and food and clothing for children and families in need. The group also founded both a medical clinic and a public library, and to this day, the Fort Walton Public Library provides vital services to the community.

The Fort Walton Beach General Federation of Women's Club is well known for their many invaluable contributions to the arts, environment, education, domestic violence prevention, home life, and our nation's veterans. The Club's commitment to providing resources to our veterans and their families is invaluable to the Northwest Florida community and serves as a shining example for others. As Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I understand the vital importance of serving those who have worn the uniform, and I am extremely grateful for the patriotic and dedicated service that the Club offers to Northwest Florida's veterans.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I congratulate and offer thanks to the Fort Walton Beach General Federation of Women's Club on 90 years of exemplary service. My wife Vicki joins me in offering our best wishes to the Women's Club for their success as they continue to carry out their laudable mission and for their dedication to bettering the lives of those around them.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose adoption of the Conference Report on H.R. 1540; the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. This bill includes dangerous provisions that put fundamental American values at risk.

Section 1021 of this Conference Report authorizes the President of the United States to detain indefinitely—without charge, without trial, and without due process—any individual suspected of terrorism. The section is written so broadly it raises legal questions about whether indefinite detention may be applicable to American citizens detained on American soil. Specifically, this provision empowers the President to detain anyone who “substantially supported” forces “associated” with al-Qaeda or the Taliban that are “engaged in hostilities against the United States or its coalition partners.” It is troubling and problematic that the legislation fails to define any of these terms.

In an editorial today titled “Politics Over Principle” the New York Times argued against the legislation saying it could grant presidents “the authority to throw American citizens into prison for life without charges or a trial.” Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, a sponsor of the Senate's defense authorization bill, stated clearly the far-reaching intent of this section. He said the indefinite detention provision: “does apply to American citizens, and it designates the world as the battlefield, including the homeland.”

Proponents of these indefinite detention powers argue the language merely codifies policies instituted by the George W. Bush Administration and continued under the current administration. This argument ignores the fact these policies are quite possibly unconstitutional. Congress should be investigating and reforming existing policies, not codifying them as permanent American law.

Congress has a sacred duty to defend the liberties that generations of Americans fought to establish and preserve. This conference report sacrifices the most fundamental of those liberties while gaining little, if any, additional security. If the provisions of Section 1021 are enacted, it would be the first time Congress has enshrined indefinite detention into law since the McCarthy Era.

In addition, the Conference Report before us today is a disappointing statement about fiscal responsibility. When the Defense Authorization bill passed the House in May, it included my amendment to cap funding for military bands at \$200 million. This amendment would have saved taxpayers \$125 million. Unfortunately, the Senate stripped this relatively modest but sensible cut from the bill. By protecting a bloated budget for the military's bands, it would appear that the Senate is elevating pomp and circumstance to a national security priority at the expense of fiscal responsibility. If Congress does not have the gumption to limit spending on military bands to \$200 million in a time of financial crisis, how will we be able to cut the \$600 billion from the defense budget required by the upcoming budget sequestration?

Mr. Speaker, I cannot vote for this national defense authorization. Congress should pass a bill that supports our troops and their families, responds to emerging threats to our national security. However, I cannot support legislation that erodes basic American freedoms.

I request unanimous consent to insert a copy of the aforementioned New York Times editorial into the RECORD with my remarks.

[From The New York Times, Dec. 15, 2011]

POLITICS OVER PRINCIPLE

The trauma of Sept. 11, 2001, gave rise to a dangerous myth that, to be safe, America had to give up basic rights and restructure its legal system. The United States was now in a perpetual state of war, the argument went, and the criminal approach to fighting terrorism—and the due process that goes along with it—wasn't tough enough.

President George W. Bush used this insidious formula to claim that his office had the inherent power to detain anyone he chose, for as long as he chose, without a trial; to authorize the torture of prisoners; and to spy on Americans without a warrant. President Obama came into office pledging his dedication to the rule of law and to reversing the Bush-era policies. He has fallen far short.

Mr. Obama refused to entertain any investigation of the abuses of power under his predecessor, and he has been far too willing to adopt Mr. Bush's extravagant claims of national secrets to prevent any courthouse accountability for those abuses. This week, he is poised to sign into law terrible new measures that will make indefinite detention and military trials a permanent part of American law.

The measures, contained in the annual military budget bill, will strip the F.B.I., federal prosecutors and federal courts of all or most of their power to arrest and prosecute terrorists and hand it off to the military, which has made clear that it doesn't

want the job. The legislation could also give future presidents the authority to throw American citizens into prison for life without charges or a trial. The bill, championed by Republicans in the House and Senate, was attached to the military budget bill to make it harder for Mr. Obama to veto it.

Nearly every top American official with knowledge and experience spoke out against the provisions, including the attorney general, the defense secretary, the chief of the F.B.I., the secretary of state, and the leaders of intelligence agencies. And, for weeks, the White House vowed that Mr. Obama would veto the military budget if the provisions were left in. On Wednesday, the White House reversed field, declaring that the bill had been improved enough for the president to sign it now that it had passed the Senate.

This is a complete political cave-in, one that reinforces the impression of a fumbling presidency. To start with, this bill was utterly unnecessary. Civilian prosecutors and federal courts have jailed hundreds of convicted terrorists, while the tribunals have convicted a half-dozen.

And the modifications are nowhere near enough. Mr. Obama, his spokesman said, is prepared to sign this law because it allows the executive to grant a waiver for a particular prisoner to be brought to trial in a civilian court. But the legislation's ban on spending any money for civilian trials for any accused terrorist would make that waiver largely meaningless.

The bill has so many other objectionable aspects that we can't go into them all. Among the worst: It leaves open the possibility of subjecting American citizens to military detention and trial by a military court. It will make it impossible to shut the prison in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. And it includes an unneeded expansion of the authorization for the use of military force in Afghanistan to include indefinite detention of anyone suspected of being a member of Al Qaeda or an amorphous group of “associated forces” that could cover just about anyone arrested anywhere in the world.

There is no doubt. This bill will make it harder to fight terrorism and do more harm to the country's international reputation. The White House said that if implementing it jeopardizes the rule of law, it expects Congress to work “quickly and tirelessly” to undo the damage. The White House will have to make that happen. After it abdicated its responsibility this week, we're not convinced it will.

HONORING SUMMERVILLE HIGH
SCHOOL JAZZ @ 8 ADVANCED
JAZZ CHOIR

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the Summerville High School Jazz @ 8 Advanced Jazz Choir for their exceptional performance at the 2011 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree.

The Jazz @ 8 Advanced Jazz Choir has a 30-year history of outstanding performances. This year, the 18-member group is comprised of 10 girls and 8 boys, ranging from sophomores to seniors. The members, Camille Berringer, Adria Britton, Ian Britton, Joaquin David, Tonysha Hadden, Justin Jones, Kai Kellerman, Karissa Kinkle, Max Kohl, Sam Kohl, Charlie McClung, Hank Miller, Maeve Moriarty, Mikayla Murry, Morgan Murry, Rebekah O'Kelley, Aubreana Woodworth, and

Autumn Worden are students of Summerville High School and the Connections Visual and Performing Arts Academy. This educational facility was established 10 years ago on the Summerville campus to support the interests of students in visual and performing arts. Jazz @ 8 is directed by Madeline Young, the vocal music and drama director and teacher. Throughout the school year, this group performs at many community and school events, including parades, veteran ceremonies, luncheons for service groups, benefit dinners, and at local football and basketball games.

The invitation to perform in Washington D.C. was a distinguished honor, and the students rehearsed every day to prepare. Accompanying the group to Washington, D.C. was Diana Harford, Principal of the Connections Visual and Performing Arts Academy and David Urquhart, Principal of Summerville High School. The Tuolumne County community, which is a small, rural community in the Sierra Nevada foothills of central California, was enormously generous and supportive of the students, the program and the school, providing the entire funding for the students to be able to make this once in a lifetime trip. In a very short amount of time, generous contributions ranging from \$20 to over \$6,000 were received to raise the \$20,000 to cover all the costs for the four-day trip. Large donors include Summerville High School Foundation, Sonora Area Foundation, Black Hats, and Black Oak Casino.

In addition to the tree lighting performance, the talented group of young adults performed at the White House for two hours during public tours and the Library of Congress during the 2011 Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony reception hosted by the California State Society and sponsored by Southern California Edison.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the Summerville High School Jazz @ 8 Advanced Jazz Choir on this accomplishment, and for representing the city and county of Tuolumne in such a positive light.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL MAUGHAN, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA HEROISM AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Daniel Maughan of Euless, Texas, for receiving the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Heroism Award. The Heroism Award is the third-highest award presented by BSA for lifesaving and meritorious action. This award is reserved for individuals who have demonstrated heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save a life. Since the award's inception in 1923, Boy Scouts of America has only awarded approximately 3,500 recipients this distinguished honor.

On May 15, 2011, Daniel's father, Mike Maughan, Ph.D., suffered a heart attack due to an unknown blood clot that quickly traveled to his pulmonary artery. In an act of heroism, Daniel performed CPR on his father, sustaining his life until paramedics arrived on scene. Due to the trauma caused by the blood

clot, Mike later passed away with his family by his side. Mike was an avid supporter of the Boy Scouts and a mentor to many young men in scouting.

Daniel has earned numerous Boy Scout honors including the rank of Eagle Scout—the highest rank in the Boy Scout organization—and the Silver Palm. Currently, Daniel is a freshman at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, where he is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in mechanical engineering and is a member of the rowing team.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to represent a hero like Daniel. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Daniel for his courageous acts of bravery.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,099,497,460,357.58. We've added \$10,298,092,285,063.30 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

INTRODUCING THE AFFORDABLE MORTGAGE FOR HOMEOWNERS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Affordable Mortgage for Homeowners Act. This bill would reduce the interest rate on all mortgages owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac to the current—and more affordable—interest rate, which averages four percent.

As our nation is recovering from the worst recession and housing crisis in decades, millions of homeowners continue to struggle to make their mortgage payments and keep their homes. Approximately 22 percent or 10.7 million of homeowners owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth. In 2011, two million households received a foreclosure filing. Furthermore, the total mortgage debt overhang in the United States approaches \$700 billion dollars. The state of Florida is by far one of the hardest hit regions in the country.

During the height of the subprime mortgage crisis in 2008, many recognized that it was the predatory lending practices of mortgage lenders that pushed millions of homeowners to purchase homes they could not afford. Today, millions of responsible homeowners have underwater mortgages, because of these unscrupulous lending practices and declining home values. I refuse to let American families struggle through no fault of their own.

While the U.S. government has established programs to help homeowners who are both current and in default on their mortgages, it has not been enough. Indeed, many households did not qualify for these programs or were not aware of their existence. My bill will fix this problem by requiring Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to reduce the interest rate on all the mortgages they own to the current interest rate, which averages four percent. Homeowners who have a better mortgage product or want to opt out will be exempted. My bill is the first program that will directly help millions of homeowners and address the housing crisis comprehensively.

Mr. Speaker, homeownership is a central part of the American dream. Ensuring that people are able to maintain this critical investment is essential to achieving sustainable growth and economic development in our communities. Millions of responsible Americans continue to bear the cost of this economic crisis. I find this to be unacceptable. They deserve fair and affordable mortgages that allow them to plan for the future. This is why I urge my colleagues to take a major step towards ending the housing crisis and support this important legislation.

HONORING STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Stanislaus National Forest Service for supplying the 2011 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. No season generates more enthusiasm, heightened sense of good will, deeper traditions, and economic benefits than the annual Christmas season, and the Stanislaus National Forest Service provided the single and most beautiful symbol of the season—the Christmas Tree.

This year, Speaker of the House JOHN BOEHNER hosted the tree lighting ceremony on the West Front Lawn of the United States Capitol Building on Tuesday, December 6. Seven-year-old Johnny Crawford from Sonora, California was the lucky child who flipped the switch and turned on the 10,000 LED lights that illuminated the tree.

Since 1970, it has become an honor for one of the National Forests to be asked to provide the Capitol Tree. The appointed National Forest, in turn, engages help from diverse partners throughout its respective State. The opportunity to provide the Capitol Christmas Tree becomes a state-wide celebration and civic event, leaving a lasting impression on all who are fortunate enough to be involved.

2011 is only the fourth time California has provided the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree—the last time was in 1995. Known as “The People's Tree,” the 2011 Capitol Christmas Tree was harvested from the Stanislaus National Forest located in the Central Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The Forest Service recommended 15 trees to the Superintendent of the U.S. Capitol Grounds, Ted Bechtel, in late August of 2011. He made his final decision after a good night's sleep. Several aspects are taken into account during the selection, including the shape and

fullness of the tree, the tree color and foliage condition, and species characteristics of needle retention and branch pliability. Of course, access to the tree for ease of cutting, loading, and transporting are also considered.

This year's 118-year-old Sierra White Fir tree is 63 feet tall. It weighs 8,300 pounds and traveled 4,280 miles from California to Washington, D.C. Along the way, it made 23 stops; 13 in California and 11 across the nation. An additional 100 companion trees were delivered to the capital and placed in federal offices and congressional offices. They also transported the tree donated by the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians to the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The tree's arrival received international press and showed the rest of the world that our nation has the freedom to celebrate a religious holiday at the Capitol.

In addition, the Stanislaus National Forest Service held a Statewide Song Search and Art Contest. They collected 2,500 outdoor and 2,200 indoor Christmas ornaments made by Californians for the Tree. The use of recycled and natural materials was encouraged. Also, they conducted a food drive for Gallup, New Mexico, the third poorest city in the nation. The statewide food drive involved several food banks from throughout the state that donated a pallet of food as well as collected food at every stop made in California. The food was transported to Gallup, New Mexico, and the community was very appreciative of the more than 14 pallets of food that the team delivered on November 16.

The Stanislaus National Forest also coordinated all the donations to fund the harvesting, transport, and tour of the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. Additionally, there were many that assisted in the momentous occasion that made it possible. Special recognition should go to Maria Benech, 2011 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Coordinator, who worked tirelessly on the project. Central Sierra Arts Council helped with the statewide song search and Art Competition. Gini Siebert of Out of Hand helped create over 1,000 clay ornaments for the Tree and the indoor trees by garnering donations from Sonora businesses to pay for classroom art projects. The Sonora Garden Club made the 48 sprays that were given as gifts at each community the Tree visited across the United States. Fire on the Mountain were critical in the November 5 Tree Cutting Celebration in Sonora. Mark Patton, Frank Gilbeau, and Danny Hess cut and laid the Tree down on the special cradle without breaking a branch in the 17 degree weather. The City of Sonora hosted a parade and escort on November 5. And finally, Cal Trans and CHP who helped the Stanislaus National Forest Service move the tree from Point A to Barstow.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the Stanislaus National Forest Service for a job well done in supplying the 2011 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree.

HONORING DAN TERRELL

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege as the representative of Indiana's

Fourth District to rise and pay tribute to Mr. Dan Terrell, mayor of Mitchell, Indiana.

Mayor Terrell is a man of deep civic conviction, a loving father of 6, and a devoted grandfather of 17.

Dan Terrell was born in Mitchell, Indiana, and has remained there his entire life. He has never lost the small town conservative spirit that growing up in the Heartland of America gave him.

Following his retirement from the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Dan Terrell was ready to concentrate fully on helping his hometown overcome challenges that so many small cities and towns have faced: lost businesses, sidewalks that were unsafe or non-existent, infrastructure in total disrepair, drinking water barely able to pass State regulations. During Mayor Terrell's four years in office these, and many other concerns, have not only been addressed but have been corrected.

Besides the tangible accomplishments, his representation of the city as he traveled throughout Indiana offered his constituents a mayor they could be proud of.

His leadership and vision will be truly missed as he leaves the mayor's office. His love and his devotion for his hometown will continue. Mr. Speaker, it has been a true honor to stand in tribute and offer my thanks to the civic service of Mayor Dan Terrell, one of Indiana's best mayors and my close friend.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great regret that I rise to oppose this Defense Authorization Conference Report. This is the first Defense Authorization Conference Report I have opposed since I was first elected in 2002.

I cannot support this Conference Report because it limits the tools available to detain and prosecute terror suspects and could have the unintended effect of weakening our national security. As currently written, the language in the Report also creates potentially dangerous and costly confusion about the roles of the military and law enforcement officials during the arrest of terror suspects. At the same time, certain provisions leave open the possibility that innocent U.S. citizens could be wrongfully and indefinitely detained at the direction of the President without appropriate access to civilian courts.

The mix of tools currently available to the Executive Branch has strengthened our national security. Civilian prosecutors and federal courts have convicted and imprisoned hundreds of terrorists, while the military tribunals have convicted only a half-dozen. Why would we want to tip the scales toward a less effective enforcement tool? Why tie our own hands?

Sections 1021 and 1022 of the Report will generate confusion as to whether the military or the FBI and civilian law enforcement agencies have custody over terror suspects. Today, in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Com-

mittee, FBI Director Mueller expressed concern and uncertainty about the confusing directives in the Report that could cause misunderstandings between the FBI and the military regarding the detention of covered individuals during the crucial early moments of an arrest when information gathering is most important. He described an example where a terrorist arrest in a city like New York could cause unnecessary confusion and conflict between city law enforcement and the military because New York City is not a military controlled area. He also worries about how the situation would play out if a group of detainees—some covered, others not—are captured at the same time and what impact this might have on the handling of their cases.

There is also much confusion about the indefinite detention authority in section 1021 of the measure. Some say that this section does not apply to U.S. citizens, but if that was the intention of the conferees, American citizens should have been specifically exempted the way they were in Section 1022 regarding mandatory military detention. The fact that American citizens were expressly exempted from mandatory military detention under section 1022—but not exempted under section 1021—suggests that Congress is implicitly endorsing the idea that American citizens may be indefinitely detained under the Authorization for Use of Military Force. If Congress is going to spell out the rules of arrest and detention, it should have made clear that American citizens may not be indefinitely detained without due process of law.

How U.S. citizens are to be treated when detained as terror suspects and the question of jurisdictional leadership during terror-related arrests are matters of such supreme national consequence that they should not have been expeditiously appended to a National Defense Authorization Conference Report. These important issues should have had the benefit of debate and close examination that can only happen during regular order.

RECOGNIZING MR. TODD LAVOGUE AND HIS STUDENTS AS HAS- TINGS' HEROES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Todd LaVogue and the students in his social studies class at Roosevelt Middle School in West Palm Beach. Mr. LaVogue recently engaged his students in Amnesty International's letter-writing campaign for human rights. Mr. LaVogue and his students joined people of good conscience around the world in writing letters to government officials in many countries, urging them to release political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. The students were able to see what such efforts can accomplish when the government of the nation of Myanmar released opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi after many years of house arrest.

By expressing their concern for people improperly and unfairly held in captivity by authoritarian governments around the world, Mr. LaVogue and his students are shining examples of the best in humankind. They are people deserving of respect and admiration from all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of Mr. LaVogue and his students, and I am pleased to name them true Hastings' Heroes.

HONORING TUOLUMNE BAND OF
ME-WUK INDIANS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians for the integral part they played in bringing the 2011 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree to Washington, DC.

Since 1970, it has become an honor for one of the National Forests to be asked to provide the Capitol Tree. The appointed National Forest, in turn, engages help from diverse partners throughout its respective State. The opportunity to provide the Capitol Christmas Tree becomes a state-wide celebration and civic event, leaving a lasting impression on all who are fortunate enough to be involved.

2011 is only the fourth time California has contributed the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, the last time was in 1995. Known as "The People's Tree," the 2011 Capitol Christmas Tree was harvested from the Stanislaus National Forest located in the Central Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians performed a blessing of the tree prior to it being harvested. The members of the tribe cut and laid the tree down on a special cradle without breaking a branch in the frigid 17 degree weather.

In addition to assisting with the harvesting and blessing of the 2011 Capitol Christmas Tree, the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians also harvested and blessed their own tree. The 20-foot tall White Spruce was hand-picked by the Elders to be donated to the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. It is the first time that a Native American tribe from California has donated a tree to the museum. It traveled 4,280 miles from California to Washington, DC making 23 stops along the way. At two of the stops, the Me-Wuk's had tribal gift exchanges with two other Indian tribes. The tree's arrival received international press and showed the rest of the world that our nation has the freedom to celebrate a religious holiday at the Capitol.

A notable moment for the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians was being able to perform a tribal dance in the Library of Congress. Their performance marks the first time that a Native American tribe has danced in the historic building. The dancers that participated were Robert Millis, Louis Millis, Robert Burciaga, Miguel Campos, Joey Guinn, Shanta Millis, Tricia Guinn, Heather Palmer, Darla Berg, Janell Lavell, Melissa Wiest, Lucy Parker, and Ursula Jones. Special Recognition should be extended to Reba Fuller, the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians Government Specialist, who worked tirelessly on the project and traveled with the tree until it was properly placed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians for their historic journey with the 2011 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, because it contains a number of important advancements. I am extremely disappointed, however, that we were unable to achieve more in our effort to change U.S. policy on the treatment of detainees.

H.R. 1540 contains a number of areas of progress, including a pay increase for our troops, important new protections for military personnel who are victims of sexual assault, concrete requirements for the Department of Defense to strengthen its audit-readiness, and increased cooperation with Israel on ballistic missile defense. In addition, it contains the toughest sanctions yet on the Central Bank of Iran to pressure the Iranian regime from continuing its pursuit of nuclear weapons. And, it blunts the defense spending increases of past years with significant cuts that are consistent with the end of the war in Iraq and the winding down of our involvement in Afghanistan.

When the House first considered H.R. 1540 earlier this year, I voted against it because of its misguided language on detainees. The bill's provision for military detention of American citizens was simply antithetical to American values. I joined with nearly three dozen Members of Congress in urging that the language on detainees be removed from the final version of the legislation.

I commend President Obama for insisting on a number of improvements, including a prohibition on military detention of U.S. citizens and lawful residents, the removal of language that would have banned the use of civilian courts to prosecute Qaeda suspects, and the elimination of language that would have provided an expanded authorization for the use of military force.

For these reasons I will vote for H.R. 1540. I will closely monitor the law's implementation, however, and press for further changes that are needed to protect our civil liberties and the rule of law, which Americans have fought to preserve at such great cost.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HOME-
LESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, which will be observed on December 21, 2011. This day has been observed annually since 1990 to remember those who have lost their lives due to the tragedy of homelessness, and to bring attention to the need to end homelessness. Last December, the House of Representatives passed H. Con. Res. 325, a resolution that I introduced that supports the goals and ideals

of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. I am proud to recognize this important day again this year, and express my deepest sympathies to those who have lost loved ones to this tragedy.

The current state of our economy has greatly exacerbated national homelessness. It is estimated that over half a million people experience homelessness on any given night in the United States. Of those in the homeless population, 12 percent are veterans, and 17 percent are considered chronically homeless. These numbers highlight the fact that we are witnessing a growing human rights crisis right here at home. This is a crisis that cannot be ignored.

Mr. Speaker, as Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness, I understand that we must and can do more to end homelessness. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Homeless Persons' Memorial to prevent and end homelessness.

HONORING G. KENNETH CAR-
PENTER AND HAROLD FARRING-
TON, JR., ON THEIR INDUCTION
TO THE VETERANS HALL OF
FAME

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, recognize, and congratulate G. Kenneth Carpenter and Harold Farrington, Jr., on their induction into the Veterans Hall of Fame.

In 1967, Kenneth volunteered to serve his country in Vietnam. After returning home, he found his calling and joined the clergy. During his 25 years as Senior Minister at Mystic's Union Baptist Church, Mr. Carpenter dedicated himself to his community. He helped found the Mystic Area Shelter & Hospitality, providing a safe haven to more than 800 people and preventing hundreds more from becoming homeless. He also led the group that created the Sunshine Kitchen in Groton, which served free meals to local people in need for 18 years. In addition, Mr. Carpenter co-founded the Southeastern Connecticut Clergy Association to encourage people of different faiths to work together and volunteered to counsel veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Harold Farrington, Jr., served in the Army's combat infantry in Vietnam. In 1968, he returned home after a mortar round blew up in his left hand. Mr. Farrington spent five years undergoing painful bone and skin grafts and tendon transplants. Harold was so impressed with the care he received from the Veterans benefits counselor that he decided to go work for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Over the next 30 years, Mr. Farrington was dedicated to ensuring that veterans and their families were able to receive the disability compensation, benefits, and services to which they were entitled. Harold established Veteran's Services offices at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, the Coast Guard Academy in New London and the Naval Station in Newport, RI, to help service-members transition to civilian life.

The exemplary contributions that G. Kenneth Carpenter and Harold Farrington, Jr.,

have made to their communities after leaving the military, have earned them a place in the Veterans Hall of Fame. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these two men and applauding their dedication to serving Connecticut and the nation.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S CENTENNIAL NATIONAL DAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of China's many successes and to express my congratulations on their Centennial.

In 1911 the Wuchang uprising gave birth to the Republic of China, becoming the first nation in the ethnic Chinese world where democracy would take root. After the revolution, Dr. Sun Yat-sen vowed to the people that they would build a strong and prosperous nation under a democratic government. Although that dream was not achieved before his death, his ideas continued to live on. Today, Taiwan celebrates freedom and democracy and enjoys a prosperous economy. As a loyal friend of the United States, we affirm our continued commitment to Taiwan's security and look forward to only strengthening our relationship.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I congratulate the Republic of China on its many accomplishments over the past 100 years and invite my colleagues to join me in celebration. My wife Vicki joins me in offering our best wishes to the people of Taiwan for their continued prosperity.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2055, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2055, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2012. While this bill is not perfect, it makes critical investments in education, military construction and civilian infrastructure requirements on Guam, Wall Street reform, and clean energy, and it ensures that our government remains funded through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2012. I thank Chairman HAL ROGERS and Ranking Member NORM DICKS, and all my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, for maintaining critical funding that supports our Armed Forces and ensures that Guam and the U.S. Territories receive necessary support from the Federal Government.

If passed, H.R. 2055 would appropriate \$33 million for civilian infrastructure improvements on Guam through the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment in response to the realignment of U.S. Marine Corps forces to Guam. The bill would provide the necessary appropriation and sufficient authorization for the Secretary of Defense to utilize these funds

specifically to address the need for vehicles and supplies for civilian student transportation, the construction of a cultural repository for cultural artifacts unearthed during current and future military construction, and the construction of a mental health and substance abuse facility in Guam. The funding for this infrastructure was done through a validated process and in accordance with the Economic Adjustment Committee criteria. These infrastructure improvements are critical to ensuring that Guam is able to sustain the additional military presence anticipated from the build-up, and the funds fulfill an agreement made between the Administration and the Government of Guam.

I am, however, very concerned with cuts that were made to the Department of the Navy for military construction projects directly relating to the U.S.-Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation. The bill removes approximately \$155 million in military construction projects that support the Marine Corps requirements for the realignment of forces from Okinawa to Guam. The removal of these funds ignores the Administration's efforts to improve our military posture in Asia, and it further delays inevitable investments that will be necessary to support the realignment. Further, I am concerned that cutting funds for increment 2 of the North Ramp Utilities project wastes nearly \$20 million in previously appropriated funds. However, I do appreciate the support for the Guam Strike requirements at Andersen Air Force Base. Guam Strike is an important program that helps to provide necessary ISR and Strike capabilities at Andersen Air Force Base. I appreciate the Committee's continued support of this program.

This bill also includes much needed support for Guam, and the U.S. Territories. Specifically, it provides more than a million dollars for infrastructure on Guam to support sustainable energy projects. The people of Guam currently face some of the highest energy costs in the Nation, and funding will help alleviate those costs and reduce our dependence on imported oil. The bill also increases funding for the Assistance to Territories program by nearly \$5 million above the President's Budget request. However, I am concerned about the reduction in funds to the Empowering Insular Communities fund. This new account would strengthen the foundations of economic development in the territories by addressing challenges preventing reliable delivery of critical services needed to attract investment. I hope that the additional funds in the Assistance to Territories fund can be used to meet this new program's needs.

In addition, once passed, this bill will significantly improve the implementation of the Compacts of Free Association. The Compacts are an important national security arrangement for our Nation; however, the impacts of Compact migration have placed a significant financial strain on the Government of Guam and similarly affected jurisdictions, in the form of education and health care costs, and other social services.

This bill funds a new position within the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) dedicated to working on Compact impact issues. It will direct the Department to work with the Freely Associated States to develop a comprehensive plan to mitigate the costs of Compact migration. The plan seeks to better inform potential Compact migrants of the original intent of the migration provision of

the Compacts, which is to provide educational and employment opportunities to FAS citizens and to avoid reliance on social services. The plan also seeks to improve access to health care, specifically dialysis treatment in the FAS. Over time, OIA's improved coordination with the FAS will reduce the need for FAS migrants to seek medical treatment in Guam or other jurisdictions. Finally, the plan would improve screening procedures for potential migrants with communicable diseases, or a criminal history.

Earlier this year, I cosigned a letter to the Department of the Interior requesting it begin working with the FAS on these issues. I commend the Committee for including these provisions in this legislation. I expect these policies will significantly improve the implementation of the Compacts, and ease the financial burdens currently placed on the local governments in affected jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2055 sets critical spending priorities for the Federal Government and fulfills Congress' most fundamental duty to provide the resources necessary to keep our government running. Given the difficult budget environment, the bill makes difficult choices in a responsible manner. Moreover, the bill ultimately provides critical support for Guam and the U.S. territories, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE NANTUCKET HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Nantucket Whalers in my district who represented their communities in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association's (MIAA) annual Super Bowls. The teams from Bourne High School, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, Duxbury High School, Mashpee High School, and Nantucket High School won five of the nine Super Bowls across the State, demonstrating a true commitment to excellence in Massachusetts' 10th District. Since 1978 when the MIAA first regulated athletic events in the Commonwealth, these tournaments have highlighted the dedication and discipline of our State's high school football teams, and the five teams from the 10th Congressional District, who won their division Super Bowls, are wonderful examples of the best of high school sports.

I am certain that the student-athletes on Nantucket's high school football team will take the valuable lesson of teamwork they have learned and translate it into many successes in the future. This is a tremendous achievement for the school, coaches and players, and I congratulate them on making everyone in their communities, including myself, proud.

I would like to take a moment to now recognize each of the hardworking athletes, their coach, and assistant coaches for their achievements both on and off the field:

From Nantucket High School (by alphabetical order):

Jake Adams, Oscar Andersen, Keegan Bartlett, Andrew Benson, Victor Boucher, Valentino Coleman, Matt Correia, Terrel Correia, Bryan Depass, Sam Earle, Hunter

Gray, Shane Hanlon, Stephen Harris, Jon Holdgate, Thomas Holdgate, Taylor Hughes, Jacob Martinson, Zach Moran, Dylan O'Connor, Tanner O'Keefe, Jake Pearl, Codie Perry, Dylan Perry, Jack Pitts, Alex Rezendes, Colton Robinson, Will Sarnie, Marshall Slade, Ian Smith, Joe Tallman, Trent Valero, Cooper Voigt, Jon Vollans, Zach Vorkampen.

Bill Manchester, Head Coach; Beau Almodobar, Assistant Coach; Vaughan Machado, Assistant Coach; Steve Murphy, Assistant Coach; Tim Psaradelis, Assistant Coach; Travis Lombardi, Assistant Coach; Bob Kessler, Assistant Coach; Matt Erisman, Assistant Coach.

HONORING THE DENNIS-YARMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Dennis-Yarmouth Dolphins in my district who represented their communities in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association's (MIAA's) annual Super Bowls. The teams from Bourne High School, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, Duxbury High School, Mashpee High School, and Nantucket High School won five of the nine Super Bowls across the state, demonstrating a true commitment to excellence in Massachusetts' 10th District. Since 1978 when the MIAA first regulated athletic events in the Commonwealth, these tournaments have highlighted the dedication and discipline of our state's high school football teams, and the five teams from the 10th Congressional District, who won their division Super Bowls, are wonderful examples of the best of high school sports.

I am certain that the student-athletes on Dennis-Yarmouth's high school football team will take the valuable lesson of teamwork they have learned and translate it into many successes in the future. This is a tremendous achievement for the school, coaches and players, and I congratulate them on making everyone in their communities, including myself, proud.

I would like to take a moment to now recognize each of the hardworking athletes, their coach, assistants and managers for their achievements both on and off the field:

From Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School (by number):

1—Damion Johnson, 2—Quan Lovett, 3—Kent Metz, 4—Rufus Hamilton, 5—Spencer Tyler, 6—Mike Dunn, 7—Mathew Montalto, 10—A.J. Breault, 11—Jeremy Lucyk, 12—Steven Azor, 13—Kyle Stephens, 14—Spencer McCaffrey, 15—Mike Anderson, 16—Ryan Barabe, 17—Liam Matheson, 18—Jacob Pawlina, 20—Ben Chapakso, 21—Sean Iliffe, 22—Dylan Hodsdon, 23—Cory Desimone, 24—Kenneth Couture, 25—Gandin McCaffrey, 30—Joe Furness, 33—Cooper Greenspon-Sullivan, 35—Tom Dasilva, 44—Chase Orava, 45—Mathew Peterson.

50—Liam Breen, 51—Quinn Campbell, 52—Eduardo Seabra-Amancio, 53—Dan Robles, 54—John Downs, 55—John Terrio, 56—Casey Allen, 57—Barry Dempsey, 58—Mathew Quattrucci, 59—Hunter Oppedisano,

60—Anthony Burke, 61—Tristen O'Leary, 63—Anthony Daly, 65—Spike Elizondo, 66—Chip Evangelista, 67—Arthur Hairston, 68—Zach Mancini, 69—Nick Coelho, 70—Andrew Robles, 71—Morgan Rosetta, 72—Kyle Pina, 73—Justin Haley, 74—Mike Alker, 75—Shane Lappen, 76—Ryan Donahue, 77—Tommy Kennedy, 78—Joe Tyo, 79—Dillon Collins, 84—Will Campbell, 87—Jason Lavallee, 88—Thomas Cooper, 90—Raheem McFarlane, Jake Campbell, Nick Warne, Devan Smith, Matt Perrino, Jeff Romulus, Ziad Kamel.

Coach: Paul Funk; Assistants: Tom Campbell, Chris Capobianco, Ross Jatkola, Matt Crossetti, Joe Jamiel, Nick Montalto, Dave Hamshire, Derick Rodrigues, John Terrio, Bob Montalto, Chris Corna; Managers: Joe Elliot and Zack Hardigan.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE RAGIN' CAJUNS RIDE TO NEW ORLEANS BOWL VICTORY

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns football team for a thrilling victory in this past Saturday's R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl. Kicker Brett Baer's 50-yard field goal as time expired lifted the Ragin' Cajuns to a come-from-behind victory over the San Diego State Aztecs in dramatic fashion.

Junior quarterback Blaine Gautier threw for three touchdowns and 470 yards, an R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl record for passing yardage. Playing in its first bowl game in 41 years, the Ragin' Cajuns did not disappoint its fan base. The last-second field goal propelled the team to its first ever Division I FBS bowl victory.

I would like to congratulate Coach Mark Hudspeth, the Ragin' Cajuns football team, and the entire University of Louisiana-Lafayette family for a successful season and a job well done. GEAUX CAJUNS!

HONORING THE MASHPEE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mashpee Falcons in my district who represented their communities in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association's (MIAA) annual Super Bowls. The teams from Bourne High School, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, Duxbury High School, Mashpee High School, and Nantucket High School won five of the nine Super Bowls across the state, demonstrating a true commitment to excellence in Massachusetts' 10th District. Since 1978 when the MIAA first regulated athletic events in the Commonwealth, these tournaments have highlighted the dedication and discipline of our state's high school football teams, and the five teams from the 10th Congressional District, who won their di-

vision Super Bowls, are wonderful examples of the best of high school sports.

I am certain that the student-athletes on Mashpee's high school football team will take the valuable lesson of teamwork they have learned and translate it into many successes in the future. This is a tremendous achievement for the school, coaches and players, and I congratulate them on making everyone in their communities, including myself, proud.

I would like to take a moment to now recognize each of the hardworking athletes, their coach, athletic director, team doctor, assistants, as well as the school administration for their achievements both on and off the field:

From Mashpee High School (by number): 2—John Williams, 3—Cody Bingham-Hendricks, 4—Xavier Penveluar, 5—Devin VanGelder, 6—Jake Martini, 6—James Murphy, 7—Zack Orcutt, 9—Tyler Gaudreau, 12—Chris Pearson, 14—Tyler Lawlee, 18—Jordan Keliinui, 20—Robbie Hendricks, 22—Larry Green, 23—Zack Buckley, 24—Kevin Frye, 28—Robert Andrade, 30—Kameron Clark, 31—Jared Taylor, 36—Kyle Murrar, 40—Xavier Rose, 44—John Benard, 47—Sam Elichalt, 50—Aaron Roderick, 52—Hayden Kilpatrick, 53—Ethan West, 56—Kris Carpenter, 59—Travis Parslow, 62—Dan Miklos, 70—Anthony Sylvia, 76—Matt Miller, 76—Kevin Wilson, 77—Graham Kilpatrick, 79—Nathan Chrzanowski, 80—Tea Moulton-Childs, 81—Alexander Clark, 90—Jorgen Danielson, Devin McDaniel.

Head Coach: Matthew Triveri.

Assistants: Mark Balestracci, Patrick Ball, Mark Doucette, Chris Rendigs.

Volunteers: Mike Mullen, John Moreno, Pat Merrick.

Athletic Director: Mike Horne.

Trainer: Courtney Briggs.

Team Doctor: Rich Mosychuk.

Principal: Jane Day.

Superintendent of schools: Ann Bradshaw.

HONORING THE BOURNE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bourne High School Canalmen in my district who represented their communities in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association's (MIAA) annual Super Bowls. The teams from Bourne High School, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, Duxbury High School, Mashpee High School, and Nantucket High School won five of the nine Super Bowls across the state, demonstrating a true commitment to excellence in Massachusetts' 10th District. Since 1978 when the MIAA first regulated athletic events in the Commonwealth, these tournaments have highlighted the dedication and discipline of our state's high school football teams, and the five teams from the 10th Congressional District, who won their division Super Bowls, are wonderful examples of the best of high school sports.

I am certain that the student-athletes on Bourne's high school football team will take the valuable lesson of teamwork they have learned and translate it into many successes in the future. This is a tremendous achievement for the school, coaches and players, and

I congratulate them on making everyone in their communities, including myself, proud.

I would like to take a moment to now recognize each of the hardworking athletes, their coach, assistants and athletic director for their achievements both on and off the field:

From Bourne High School (by number):

3—Nigel Jackson, 5—Nick Pereira, 7—Tyler Ruggiero, 9—Geoffrey Hite, 10—Jason Moriarty, 11—Terrell Rogers, 12—Jovier Nivar, 14—Zach Songer, 21—Chad Marsh, 24—Marquesse Rhodes, 30—Tyler Benotti, 32—Christopher Mayer, 34—Jake Achstetter, 35—Michael Stephens, 60—Connor Collett, 48—Team Captain Joe Epps, 50—Kyle Voss, 51—Dan DiMonda, 55—Brandon Boisvert, 56—Team Captain Jack Schmitt, 57—Manny Pereira, 58—Colin Lanoie, 61—Cody Black, 62—Justin Breton, 63—Tripper Johnson, 64—Tommy Davis, 66—Robert Hodgkinson, 70—Andrew Veliotis, 72—Zachary Keif, 74—Pat Sullivan, 75—Corey Travers, 76—Mike Raftery, 77—Connor Schmitt, 81—Dillon Woodside, 85—Team Captain Drew Girouard, 88—Kent Murtaugh.

Coach: John McIntyre; Assistants: Dave DeFelice, James Lanoie, Terry Donovan, Brent Lyden, Craig Davidson; Athletic Director: Scott Ashworth.

HONORING ROBERT F. HALSCH

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Robert F. Halsch, in honor of his 30th anniversary with the Bergen County Community Action Partnership.

Since 1984, Bob has provided exceptional leadership to this multi-faceted anti-poverty organization. As Executive Director he is responsible for supervising 250 employees who run programs related to health, housing, mental health, substance abuse, education, child care, Head Start, immigration, nutrition, energy, asset development, and economic and community development.

Highlights from his tenure include the opening of new Head Start sites, creating a new Federally Qualified Health Center and chartering the first new federal credit union in New Jersey in two decades. Under Bob's leader-

ship, Bergen County CAP was selected as the inaugural recipient of the 1st Annual Charles E. Braithwait Award for Leadership by the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) for creating new models for economic opportunity for low-income families and the agencies that serve them.

Bob is also the founder and CEO of Community Housing in Partnership, Inc. (CHIP), a HUD certified Community Housing Development Organization created in 1989. This is a New Jersey not-for-profit real estate development company that has developed affordable housing for persons with special needs, homeless persons in transition, older adults, first time homebuyers and low-income renters. Acting as the designated developer for the Jersey City Redevelopment Authority, CHIP recently completed the re-development of a city block in an economically distressed area of the city.

Furthermore, in partnership with the National Community Action Foundation and Southern New Hampshire University, Bob helped initiate a master's program for the benefit of the Community Action Agency Network. Community Action Agency employees from around the Nation have been working toward their master's degrees through this online program.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my dear friend, Robert F. Halsch, on his 30th anniversary as Executive Director of the Bergen County Community Action Partnership. I join with the grateful residents of Bergen County in thanking him for innumerable contributions to the development of our community. I am confident that his leadership and dedication to service will continue to be a blessing to countless New Jerseyans in need.

HONORING THE DUXBURY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Duxbury Dragons in my district who represented their communities in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association's (MIAA) annual Super Bowls. The teams from Bourne High School, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, Duxbury High School, Mashpee High School, and Nantucket High

School won five of the nine Super Bowls across the state, demonstrating a true commitment to excellence in Massachusetts' 10th District. Since 1978 when the MIAA first regulated athletic events in the Commonwealth, these tournaments have highlighted the dedication and discipline of our state's high school football teams, and the five teams from the 10th Congressional District, who won their division Super Bowls, are wonderful examples of the best of high school sports.

I am certain that the student-athletes on Duxbury's high school football team will take the valuable lesson of teamwork they have learned and translate it into many successes in the future. This is a tremendous achievement for the school, coaches and players, and I congratulate them on making everyone in their communities, including myself, proud.

I would like to take a moment to now recognize each of the hardworking athletes and their coach for their achievements both on and off the field.

From Duxbury High School (by number):

1—Tucker Hannon, 2—Reilly Naton (C), 3—Andrew Buron, 4—Khai Perry, 5—Jay McDermott, 6—Greg Williams, 7—Matt Okeefe, 8—James Burke (C), 9—Don Webber (C), 10—Sean McCarthy, 11—Kevin Winchester, 12—James Higgins, 13—Patrick Buell, 14—Ryan Scanlon, 15—Mike Tougas, 16—Keenan Siciliano, 17—Drew Hadley, 19—Luke DiVasta, 20—Max Randall (C), 21—Colin Johnson, 22—Seamus Connelly, 23—Andrew Padula, 24—Jon Hurvitz, 25—Andrew Baker, 26—Joe Guilfoile, 27—Ben Clark, 28—Wes Quinzani, 32—Jim Chappuis, 33—Henry Narlee, 34—Henry Buonagurio (C), 35—Kyle Macleod, 36—Mike Kozmiski, 38—JP O'Neil, 40—Marshall McCarthy.

41—Steven Bouchie, 42—Sean Casey, 43—Chris Haney, 47—Brody Zisko, 49—Martin Moxter, 50—Drew Lawrence, 51—Kevin DiBona, 52—Rick Lippard, 53—Kasey Stefanski, 54—Chris Bertoni, 55—Marcus Urann, 56—Owen Grey, 57—Cam Schofield, 58—Luke Glathorn, 59—Chris Cote, 60—Bill Weld, 61—Cj Loconte, 62—Dave Creed, 63—Mark Trudeau, 64—Bobby Boyle, 65—Sean Gleason, 66—Mike Klein, 67—Theodore Holland, 69—Gordon Acha, 70—Grant Kramer, 71—Brendan Connolly, 72—Rob Kosharek, 73—Carter Bulman, 74—Pat Blair, 75—Winston Schromm, 76—Kevin Lema, 77—Johnny Congdon, 78—Jack Herlihy, 79—Dylan Buckley, 80—Tommy Sarles, 86—Alden Fontana, Coach: Dave Maimaron.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 for a pro forma session.

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 10 public bills, H.R. 3727–3736; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 501 were introduced. **Page H9945**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H9945–46**

Reports Filed:

Two reports were filed:

H.R. 3029, to reduce the size of the Federal workforce through attrition, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–334) and

H. Res. 502, providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 3630) to provide incentives for the creation of jobs, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 501) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding any final measure to extend the payroll tax holiday, extend Federally funded unemployment insurance benefits, or prevent decreases in reimbursement for physicians who provide care to Medicare beneficiaries; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 112–335). **Page H9945**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:05 a.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H9932**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and agree to the following measure:

Provide for the placement of a statue or bust of Sir Winston Churchill in the United States Capitol: H. Res. 497, to provide for the placement of a statue or bust of Sir Winston Churchill in the United States Capitol. **Pages H9940–43**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Instructing the Inspector General of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study the impact of insured depository institution failures: Concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2056, to instruct the Inspector General of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study the impact of insured depository institution failures; **Pages H9933–36**

Risk-Based Security Screening for Members of the Armed Forces Act: Concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1801, to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for expedited security screenings for members of the Armed Forces; **Pages H9936–37**

Protecting the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information: Concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1059, to protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports; and **Pages H9937–38**

Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act of 2011: Concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 515, to reauthorize the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004. **Pages H9938–40**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:31 p.m. and reconvened at 11:02 p.m. **Page H9943**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H9931–32.

Senate Referrals: S. 1710 was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; S. 1959 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary; and S. 1874 was held at the desk. **Page H9944**

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea-and-Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 11:04 p.m.

Committee Meetings

TO EXTEND THE PAYROLL TAX HOLIDAY, UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION, MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT, PROVIDE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING ANY FINAL MEASURE TO EXTEND THE PAYROLL TAX HOLIDAY, EXTEND FEDERALLY FUNDED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS, OR PREVENT DECREASES IN REIMBURSEMENT FOR PHYSICIANS TO PROVIDE CARE TO MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3630, to extend the payroll tax holiday, unemployment compensation, Medicare physician payment, provide for the consideration of the Keystone XL pipeline, and for other purposes; and H. Res. 501, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding any final measure to extend the payroll tax holiday, extend Federally funded unemployment insurance benefits, or prevent decreases in reimbursement for physicians to provide care to Medicare beneficiaries. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8 to 4, a rule making in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Ways and Means or his designee that the House disagree to the Senate amendments to H.R. 3630 and request a conference with the Senate thereon without question of consideration. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion and provides that the Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and

ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Section 2 provides a closed rule for H. Res. 501 without question of consideration. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the resolution and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the resolution. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Section 3 of the rule provides that during consideration of a motion to instruct conferees pending their appointment to a conference on H.R. 3630, the previous question shall be considered as ordered to its adoption without intervening motion except one hour of debate under clause 7(b) of rule XXII. Such motion shall be considered as read and shall not be subject to any question of consideration.

Section 4 of the rule provides that during consideration of a motion specified in section 1 or 3 of this resolution, the Chair may—(a) notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, postpone further consideration of the motion to such time as may be designated by the Speaker as though under clause 1(c) of rule XIX; and (b) postpone the question of adoption of the motion as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

Section 5 of the rule provides that the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of January 17, 2012.

Finally, Section 6 of the rule provides that it shall be in order at any time through the calendar day of January 15, 2012, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1(c) of rule XV.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2011

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11 a.m., Tuesday, December 20

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Tuesday, December 20

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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